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AND
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FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Between Friday and Monday last the Shanghai Fire Brigade was called out to no fewer than fifteen fires.

M. La Verriere, Chancellor of the French Consulate at Hankow, fell overboard from the C. M. S. *Kuling* last week and was drowned.

Marquis Katsura, the Premier of Japan invited Mr. Chirol, Foreign Editor of *The Times* and Dr. Morrison to lunch on the 26th.

Mr. G. F. Montgomery, Commissioner of Imperial Maritime Customs, who went home on leave from Foochow, has resigned after nearly thirty years' service.

The two little sons of Mr. and Mrs. Dullin of Foochow have been bitten by a dog, and they are being taken to Shanghai to undergo the Pasteur treatment.

The directors of the A. Butler Cement Works Limited, at the annual meeting, which is to be held on 7th June, will recommend a dividend of six per cent for the year.

Mr. Evelyn David, son of Mr. A. J. David of Hongkong and a nephew of Sir Sassoon David of Bombay, has gone to Shanghai to take charge of the local branch of Messrs. S. J. David & Co.

The body of George Frank Stewart, the bluejacket belonging to H.M.S. *Cadmus*, who was recently drowned at Shanghai, while attempting to get aboard the ship from a sampan, has been recovered.

On receipt of news of the result of the Derby, the Stewards of the Shanghai Race Club sent a telegram to H. M. the King conveying "heartiest congratulations." His Majesty telegraphed his thanks for the message.

Now that the Philippine Assembly has come to an end great political activity is noted among the Nacionalista and Progresista parties, both of which are preparing the field for the struggle for the mastery at the November elections.

After an absence of several months Asiatic cholera has again made its appearance in Manila in a very mild form, so mild in fact that laboratory tests have failed to show but one clearly positive case out of five suspected ones.

A Vladivostok dispatch to a Japanese newspaper states that it has been decided to run Russo-Japanese horse races on September 5th, 8th, 12th, 15th 18th, and 19th next. Three hundred horses are now entered for the contests. A number of horses are expected to arrive from Moscow.

An Imperial edict, issued by the Prince Regent of China on behalf of the Emperor, orders the Board of Finance to examine all outstanding tax accounts due by Chinese subjects to the Government, and to write them off in cases where the debtors are ill able to bear them, thus showing that the Emperor loves his subjects "as if they were his own children."

The following announcements will probably be of interest to a good many people in the East:—On July 12 Mr. H. M. S. Man, of the Chartered Bank, Hamburg, and formerly stationed at Hongkong, Manila, and Saigon, will be married to Miss Nora Loeck, of Hamburg. On Aug. 28 A. Murray Gibbon, also of the Chartered Bank, Hamburg, will be married atournemouth to Miss Nicola A. L. Hutchison, of Aston Lodge, Surrey-roads Bournemouth.

Mr. Oliver G. Ready, the Commissioner of Customs at Changsha, is going home on leave.

Tokyo newspapers state that the Tokyo Spinning Company has obtained through the agency of Messrs. Sale, Frazar & Co. a foreign loan of Y1,000,000 at 6½ per cent interest, the loan being guaranteed by the Hundredth Bank, and its proceeds to be applied to the purchase of new machinery.

Vice-Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton with H.M.S. *King Alfred*, *Bedford*, *Monmouth* and *Kent*, armoured cruisers; H.M.S. *Clio*, sloop; and four torpedo-boat destroyers were at Weihai-wei on the 28th ult. H.M.S. *Astraea*, 2nd class cruiser, and the dispatch vessel were expected to arrive the following day.

An Imperial Edict sanctions the request contained in a memorial from the Board of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce for an official Seal to be given to the Chinese Commercial Association, formed for the purpose of promoting China's foreign commerce by Chinese merchants in North Borneo.

The resignation of Prince Ito as Resident-General in Korea has now been definitely accepted. Viscount Sone is to be appointed to the post in succession and has been recalled to Tokyo, where he is expected to arrive about the 23rd inst. Prince Ito will be appointed President of the Privy Council, vice Prince Yamagata.

On May 29th Mr. Charles Denby, the retiring American Consul-General at Shanghai, was entertained at a farewell banquet. So many requests were received by the promoters for permission to participate in thus honouring Mr. Denby that it was finally found necessary to abandon the original intention of a semi-private function and make the dinner of an international and public character. The influential general committee includes the names of many of the leading residents of Shanghai, Mr. D. Landale being the chairman of the committee.

A Peking telegram states that Sanmun, or San Moon Bay is to be made China's largest naval port. The entrance of this bay, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, is twenty miles W.N.W. of the Hieshan Islands. It is readily recognised by a remarkable thumb peak, 800 feet above the sea, called by the Chinese Tafou and by foreigners, Albert Peak; it rises from the northern end of Tafou Island on the northern side of the bay. There is good shelter in the N.E. Monsoon immediately westward of Leaming Island, which forms the north point of the entrance to the bay. The bottom is of soft mud. About S.W. two and a half miles from Leaming is Sanchesan or Triple Island, and the depth between them is ten and eleven fathoms. West, six miles from Leaming is a conical islet, named Cone Island, with a reef off its south end; N.W. by N. six cables from Cone Island is a small islet with a rock off its south-east face. At four miles westward of Cone is a small islet. Having passed southward of Cone, St. George Island will be seen bearing N. W. by N. four miles; the water shoals gradually as this island is approached, and the anchorage is three fathoms at half a mile south of it. It is secure in N.E. winds. There is another bay northward of St. George which is shoal and full of rocks. At the anchorage under St. George Island, San-mun bay, it is high water, full and change, at 10h. 20m.; and the springs rise about fifteen feet. Judging from the chart, San-mun Bay appears a very poor naval port.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CI.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 7th ultimo, arrived per s.s. *Tourane* on the 6th inst.

The Mayor of Manila has been robbed. Thieves entered his residence one evening last week and carried off a complete double set of arness valued at about P100.

One of the largest tobacco manufacturing concerns in the Far East, the El Oriente Cigar Factory of Manila, is threatened with enforced idleness through the strike of stickers and box labourers who are demanding an increase of wages. This means that 2,000 hands will be thrown out of employment.

A Bill now under discussion in the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament, gives the Netherlands India Government greater controlling powers over the harbour and coaling station at Sabang in Pulau Way, and authority to organise a port trust there. In Holland there is no longer any hope that Sabang will outrival Singapore and Penang. But it is confidently believed that the port has a great future. One significant fact is that the number of ships calling there increases yearly. The *Java Bode* speaks highly of what has been done so far, in improving the port and the accommodation at Sabang.

An ordinance just passed in Java which came into force on June 1, falls heavily upon Chinese secret societies in Netherlands India. A fine of one hundred guilders or three months' rigorous imprisonment is the penalty on every Chinaman found in possession of secret society documents or emblems, or caught wearing the distinguishing marks of these organisations. Those who preside over the meetings of such societies, allow meetings to be held in their houses, or fail to inform the authorities on such gatherings being held incur similar penalties. The latter also fall upon Chinese who recruit for these societies, supply them with money, or give them help in any way.

At the date of last advices from Saigon, a peculiar strike was engaging public attention. Eighty native workmen employed on quay construction work there suddenly struck on May 3, and refused duty. No persuasion could induce them to turn to. They demanded that the working day should at once be reduced from eight hours to six hours, but that the wages should remain the same. One of the ringleaders has been arrested, and several others are likely to be prosecuted for interference with freedom of labour. Worse still is a strike of over one thousand carpenters at Chinese shipyards at Cholon, near Saigon. They stopped work because the employers refused to give advances demanded. The workmen have formed themselves into union. The strike had lasted two months on May 13.

A significant sign of the times, says the *Bangkok Times*, is to be found in the report that some of the gambling houses in Bangkok have recently been losing considerable sums. The Farmers, of course, bid high for their farms, and not less so perhaps in a bad year, since they expect that people with a less income than usual will gamble to retrieve their fortunes. But either people are not doing so to the same extent, or they are unable to raise any money to gamble with. Anyhow our contemporary is credibly informed that much less money than usual is finding its way to the gambling houses of Bangkok. If there is less money to spare for a flutter in the gambling houses, cash must be very difficult to come by at present.

The North Borneo Trading Co., Ltd., proceeded against J. D. W. Thomson, lately employed in some of the docks at Hongkong, for breach of contract. The assessors, Messrs. Dale, McCreath and Cox, gave their opinions in favour of defendant, and the judge, Mr. Turner, gave judgment and compensation in accordance therewith. Counsel for the plaintiffs, Mr. G. E. Morrell, immediately notified the judge that he was not bound to accept or act on the opinion of assessors, and was informed that the court was aware of it, but agreed with the opinions given. Mr. Morrell at once gave notice of appeal. This was heard by the Governor and Mr. Pearson, sitting as judges of the High Court, and was upheld, costs being given for appellants and an order made for the damages to be assessed. This confirmed the views held by Mr. Morrell and other people who were at a loss to account for the finding in the Sessions Court.

An Amoy telegram published in the Japanese papers says the Chinese Minister in Washington has wired to the Wai-wu-pu that Chinese revolutionists in the neighbourhood of Liangkang are engaged in purchasing arms and ammunition through Americans. Viceroy Chang is instructed by the Peking Foreign Office to watch the alleged movement of the revolutionists.

The Alhambra Cigar Factory, Manila, which has been up for sale twice during the past few weeks, was on the 29th ult., purchased by the well known firm of Kuenzle and Streiff. The factory, which has for years laboured along in the hands of the banks, says a Manila contemporary, is now on a sound business basis. Mr. Hoffmeister, who has for many years been connected with the Alhambra, has been retained as technical manager. A large amount of first quality leaf tobacco has recently been purchased and future crops contracted for, which will enable the present owners to maintain the high standard always found in the Alhambra factory products. It is understood that the price paid for the concern was to be P233,000.

About 11.30 p.m. on Saturday last a fire broke out in the three-storied godown of Messrs. C. Bracco and Co., situated at the junction of Szechuen and Sungkiang Roads Shanghai. There was a good supply of water, and though it was impossible to save the contents of the godown, the firemen were successful in preventing the flames from spreading to the neighbouring premises. The wines and spirits stored in the upper storey of the building were totally destroyed and the groceries and provisions in the second and ground floors suffered considerable damage by fire and water. The contents of the building were insured with the New Zealand Insurance Company for Tls. 60,000.

A new map of the Province of Kwantung has just been published by Messrs. W. Brewer & Co., Ltd. It occupies a sheet about five feet wide by four feet deep. Names of places are given in both English and Chinese, and whether the town is large or small is specially indicated. Hills, forts, likin and Customs Stations, light houses, joss houses, naval stations, railways open or projected, sandbanks, district limits, &c. are all indicated by special marks. Hongkong, the West, East and North Rivers, and Kwongchow-fu are shown as insets on the sheet. The map was compiled and drawn by Capt. J. B. A. Grote, I. G. N. R., and reproduced by the lithographers apparently by the direct transference of the original drawings to the stone. It is advertised at the price of \$5 on rollers and \$4.50 folded.

Public observances of Memorial Day began at Manila on Sunday with special services at the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. In the morning there was a splendid musical service by the antiphonal choir under the direction of Professor and Mrs. Cook and Dr. Rossiter delivered a stirring, patriotic address at the Presbyterian church. In the evening an address was delivered by General William H. Carter on the roof garden of the same church. Both services were attended by large congregations. At the Central Methodist Church, the Rev. Isaac B. Harper spoke of the meaning of the day, and specially prepared music was played and sung. On Monday there were services at Fort McKinley, the del Norte cemetery and at Cavite, at all of which the memory of the country's dead was revered.

An advertisement headed "Expressing Gratitude" appears in the Shanghai papers, reading:—"About two months ago I missed my second boy who is six years old. It appears that he was kidnapped, and on the 18th April, the kidnapper was taking him to Hongkong on board Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's steamer *Chenan*. Fortunately, when on board the steamer, Captain J. H. Brown's suspicions were aroused, and he detained my boy and handed him over to the authorities in Hongkong with the result that a photograph of the lad was sent back here for identification, which has led to my recovery of my son. Had it not been for this kind and provident action of the Captain, I believe I should not have been able to see my son again. I hereby insert this to express my heartiest thanks to Captain Brown for the great favour he has done us.—HONG WAI-SANG, 6, Sungkiang Road, Shanghai."

HONGKONG'S SUBSIDIARY COINAGE.

(Daily Press, May 29th.)

The little discussion which took place at the meeting of the Legislative Council Finance Committee on the item in the financial statement showing that the Government in 1908 incurred a loss of no less than \$164,000 on its depreciated subsidiary coinage, did not unfortunately suggest any early relief from an intolerable burden which all trading concerns in the Colony have for years past been suffering equally with the Government—or rather, it should be said, to a much greater extent proportionately. Of the total sum of \$164,000 which the Government lost on subsidiary coinage last year, \$32,000 was the figure quoted again and again in the discussion as representing actual loss by redemption of these coins, but if \$114,000 represents the loss on the small coins shipped home and sold as bullion, a balance of \$50,000 remains to be accounted for. There are several public companies in Hongkong who have for years past been showing on their balance sheet a loss on subsidiary coins of over \$30,000 per annum, and they would much like to know when the Government propose to take effective action to put an end to this deplorable state of things. Notwithstanding that the Government are melting down a certain proportion of the subsidiary coins of the Colony which are received into the Colonial Treasury, the discount on subsidiary coinage in use in Hongkong still ranges from 6.80 to 8.50 per cent. As fast as Hongkong currency is withdrawn Chinese currency takes its place. Representations have repeatedly been made to the Chinese authorities with a view to inducing them to limit the output of the Canton Mints, alike in the interests of the people of the province and the inhabitants of this Colony. The present discount on subsidiary coins is proof of the scant notice which has been taken of those representations. According to the Hon. Colonial Secretary, H.E. the Governor has tried to point out to the Chinese authorities "the error of their ways," but no indications were given in the course of the discussion of any confident hopes of early success in this direction. It is obvious that if we are to be rid of this burdensome tax upon the business of the Colony in the life time of the present generation the Government must renounce its attitude of dependence on the Chinese authorities of Canton, and take independent action in the matter. The Government has put to the test the recommendations made in the Minority Report of the Subsidiary Coinage Commission, and it is practically confessed that they have been without result. It was suggested in the Minority Report that "in the event of the negotiations with the Chinese authorities being without result the Committee be called together again six months hence to further deliberate." It was in November, 1907, that the Reports of the Committee were sent to the Government, but though the action taken by the Government in the meantime has failed to materially improve the position, the Committee has not been called together for further deliberation, so far as we are aware. We suggest that this step should be taken now. We do not know whether the suggestion made by the Minority was intended to be taken as intimating that if their recommendations failed to have the beneficial results anticipated they would be prepared to view more favourably the recommendations in the Majority Report. Both agreed upon the desirability of urging upon China the reform of her currency; but the Majority

held that "until China has properly initiated a currency in accordance with economic principles, no proper agreement is even possible, and it is always probable that if one were entered into it would be evaded or abrogated, according as the profit therefrom might accrue to the authorities concerned." The Government might now consider whether the experience of the past eighteen months has not fully confirmed this view.

THE PROPOSED NEW PEAK TRAMWAY.

(Daily Press, 1st June.)

The Legislative Council has week by week been postponing the consideration of the new tramway route to the Peak in the hope, perhaps, that some evidence might be forthcoming of the public interest in the matter. An able Minute by Mr. DUNN, the Superintendent of the Botanical and Forestry Department, has been published strongly protesting against the new tramway being carried through the Public Gardens, by means of a wide cutting. Four alternative routes were originally suggested, viz (1) a tunnel under the Gardens; (2) a line on the surface of Glenealy Ravine; (3) a line on high trestles in the Ravine; and (4) a wide cutting through the western end of the new Public Gardens. At the annual meeting of shareholders of the Peak Tramways Company on Saturday the Chairman mentioned that the Directors had from the first objected to the tunnel route because of the enormous outlay involved. To Route No. 2 the objections are so obvious that it does not appear to have been seriously advocated. The Roman Catholic community has strongly objected to the third proposal because of the noise which would be created by trams running over high iron trestles so near to their principal place of worship, and in this objection they have been unanimously supported by the Works Committee of the Legislative Council who have recommended the Council to refuse approval of this proposal. With the same unanimity, however, they recommended that Proposal No. 1 (the open cutting through the Public Gardens) "is the best, and should be adopted, the damage done to the Gardens not being, in the opinion of the Committee so serious as to justify its rejection." Now, two months after the submission of this Report, the Superintendent of the Botanical and Forestry Department, has been required by the Government to state his views on the proposal. That this official would be strongly opposed to the idea of a tramline running through any portion of the Public Gardens was a foregone conclusion, and the value of the Minute which Mr. DUNN has submitted consists in the arguments on which his protest is based. The proposal now under the consideration of the Government means, he says, the sacrifice of 50,000 square feet of garden space and the destruction of "one of the best collections of palms and other trees in the world," not one of which, we are told, can be transplanted, in consequence of their size and age, and even if their removal were possible there would be no space available for their reception. That is a strong argument from the point of view of the botanist, and while the public may not be able to estimate the collection which is menaced at its proper scientific value, they are well able to appreciate its exceptional beauty and would much regret its destruction. The question therefore is briefly this: Would the public utility of the proposed line fully compensate for the sacrifice of public garden space and the destruction of the rare collection of palms and shrubs it involves? In

the opinion of the Works Committee there is "great need for additional facilities for reaching the High Levels and the Hill District" and we think that fact will be generally admitted. If it were not so patent, the new tramway would never have been proposed, for when men put their money into an enterprise they do so with some confidence of seeing an early return on the capital invested. Either the need for these increased facilities for reaching the higher levels has to be ignored by the Government or approval must be given (1) to the cutting through the gardens; or (2) to carrying the line on trestles up the ravine,—a proposal which, in consequence of the opposition it has evoked from the Roman Catholic community, the Works Committee has recommended the Council to reject. There is no other practicable route to the Peak with the same prospect of the enterprise proving remunerative, and the rejection of both these proposals would therefore mean the abandonment of the undertaking, since the tunnel scheme appears to be regarded by the Directors of the Company as quite out of the question.

A NECESSARY EVIL.

(Daily Press, June 2nd.)

We pointed out yesterday how matters appear to stand in regard to the projected new tramway to the Peak. Sanction must be obtained from the Government either for the line to be carried up the Glenealy Ravine on trestles, or for it to pass in a cutting across the western end of the new gardens. The Works Committee has recommended the rejection of the trestle scheme, and we have been asked what there is that can be said in favour of the encroachment on the Public Gardens. There certainly are two opinions on the subject. Mr. DUNN, the Superintendent of the Botanical and Forestry Department, has said all that there is to be said against this encroachment, but, seeing that the promoters are practically restricted to this route, it will be for the Legislative Council to say whether Mr. DUNN's arguments are so entirely convincing as to warrant the rejection of the Works Committee's recommendation that this route through the Gardens should be adopted. We share the view that Mr. DUNN has attempted to prove too much in his minute. There is a considerable amount of "honest exaggeration" in his statement of the case against the proposed route, and in view of the fact that the question is one of considerable interest at the moment, it occurs to us that it may be useful to present "the other side of the case" embodying our own views and others which we have heard expressed on the subject. In the first place we have heard it suggested that a little "honest exaggeration" is shown in writing of the proposed route as "through the Public Gardens," which is probably misleading to many people. To be precise, it was never contemplated that the new tramway to the Peak would run "through the Public Gardens," but only skirt the western edge of what for a long time was called "the New Gardens," which are separated from the Public Gardens proper by the public road to the Albany, the higher parts of Hongkong city and the Peak. These new gardens, made out of the site of Duddell's Coffee Garden, which had a large residence on it, are probably not one-third the size of the Public Gardens proper, to which they, indeed, form an additional means of access; and as such, it may be pointed out, they would afford a most convenient site for a station, enabling people living lower down to have easy access to Gardens, besides giving

those living above them better facilities for getting to or from the town. Mr. DUNN in his Minute says his position throughout has been supported by the conviction that the promoters in their anxiety to secure the concession of a second route to Peak have "overlooked, or at any rate not adequately considered, the limited number of those whom the tramway is intended to benefit compared with the immense mass of what may be called the intelligent middle classes of Chinese and Portuguese who would suffer in a special degree if the tram were run in this way through one of the most important sections of the Public Gardens." It is not easy to follow this argument. Does Mr. DUNN mean that an "immense mass" of people frequent this part of the Gardens? If so it will be news to many who are familiar with the place. But the point we wish to make, as against the argument advanced by Mr. DUNN, is that the tramway would provide an easy means of access to the Gardens, and would be likely to increase the popularity of the Gardens among all classes of the community. It is admitted by the Superintendent that the Gardens are not now the favourite resort of the English community that they used to be, but he suggests the possibility of European residents again making them a favourite resort at any time. Surely nothing would better serve to promote that than the easy means of access from the Queen's Road that a cable tramway would provide. We cannot see that "the intelligent middle classes of Chinese and Portuguese" would suffer "in a special degree" if the trams ran through the western portion of the new gardens as proposed; on the contrary, a far larger number might confidently be expected to share in the benefits now enjoyed by the comparatively few. A tram station in a corner of the Gardens would, we venture to think, be regarded by most people as a direct inducement to visit the Gardens.

The next point in Mr. DUNN's Minute is "the detriment which would be caused to the beauty and seclusion of the Gardens by this particular kind of encroachment." Some sacrifice of beauty is certainly involved, but does not the Works Committee represent the view of the public generally when it says that the damage involved to the Gardens "is not so serious as to justify the rejection of the route"? As to the "seclusion" argument, Mr. DUNN says:—"The noise made by a cable tramway must be well known now to every resident; the rattling of the wheels over which the cable runs can be heard far from the present line, and it is through the part of the Gardens most remote at present from noisy roads, that it is proposed to run these trams." A sufficient comment on this is provided by the fact that all the houses, the two churches and a hospital along the existing line have been built since the tram line has been in operation, and probably more building in that neighbourhood has only been prevented by lack of sites.

While we are aware that two blacks never yet made a white, it is worth mentioning that if the tramline were laid through the western corner of the Gardens, Hongkong would not be the only place in the world where such a thing has happened. Does not Edinburgh afford a striking example? There the railway with several lines of rails, and with locomotives burning smoky coal, passes right through one of the most beautiful gardens of one of the most picturesque cities of the world. Sentiment has been sacrificed to practical utility there to a much greater extent than is demanded in Hongkong,

Having regard to the fact that the proposed route is not right through the Gardens, as at Edinburgh, but on the western edge of the new gardens, does not the argument that the beauty and seclusion of our Public Gardens will be destroyed by a tram line seem over-stated? If a gentleman's private park were in question we could understand the plea for protection of its seclusion, but when there is every desire to induce the public to make the Gardens a favourite resort, we suggest that nothing could be calculated to serve that purpose better than the provision of easier means of access than now obtain.

CHINA'S "SOVEREIGN RIGHTS."

(Daily Press, June 3rd.)

One of the most mischievous movements that has ever taken place in China is undoubtedly that for the so-called recovery of "Sovereign Rights," which analysed is only a return to the policy of entire isolation from the rest of humanity which brought on all the troubles of the eighteenth and the first sixty years of the nineteenth century. Under the early princes of the Manchu dynasty, China had been in the fore rank of the nations, but with the reactionary policy then introduced, and the attempt to rule China as a conquered nation, Manchu rule came to be one of utter distrust; and one of the first symptoms of this was the dread that with knowledge of the greater confidence placed in their people by European Governments, the Chinese as a people would grow discontented with their own state of dependence. Ignorance was therefore to be the sheet anchor of Manchu rule, and the most effective method of bringing about ignorance, was, the astute rulers who had now come on the scene at once saw, isolation. So far as was possible the various populations that constituted the empire were to be isolated from one another. The roads which during the Ming dynasty had been fairly looked after, were now as a matter of policy studiously neglected; mines, which induced the circulation of commodities were deliberately closed, and the traveller through the mining districts still sees engraved on stone tablets by the wayside the numerous edicts issued sternly forbidding under the direst punishment the re-opening of the mines that had been encouraged under their predecessors; obstacles of all kinds were placed in the way of the inhabitants attending distant markets; taxes were raised on goods in circulation long before the advent of the greatest incubus that has ever befallen a nation,—the growth of the industry-killing system of *Likin*; garrisons of untrained Manchus were placed in most of the provinces, as permanent pensionaries, originally to overawe the populations, but their training having been neglected, they became useless burdens on the provincial exchequers.

In the propaganda of ignorance the Manchus found their chiefest helpmate in the encouragement of the (so-called) *literati* of the Empire. These, they soon perceived, had become so imbued with the anesthetic principles of the school of Chuhi, that they could safely be used to bulldoze the nation at large. The false Confucianism of the school of Chuhi was elevated into the official cult of the Empire, and the successors of K'ienlung on the throne, having put the State to sleep, fondly conceived Elysium had come, and never should—

The hundred summers die,
And thought and time be born again,
And never knowledge drawing nigh,
Bring truth that sways the soul of men.

The wretched debauchee, HIENFUNG, on whom had fallen the mantle of K'ANGHI, met a rude awakening when after the outraged British ships came thundering at Canton he, still unconvinced, had to fly from his capital leaving to his ministers the task of re-creating the Empire. But, though China had no more wars with Europe, except the short incident with France, the spirit was alive, and after the coup d'état of 1898 broke out in the attempted Boxer massacre of 1900. The leading spirit in this was the late Regent, who woman-like, staked her all on getting rid of the intruding element at one fell blow, the result of which was the capture of Peking by the foreigner, and the ignominious flight of the offending Regent. More wise than his councillors, the late Emperor recognised that unless China were prepared to enter on equal terms the community of nations she must be ever prepared to continue to eat humble pie; already the outer nations were laying plans to divide amongst themselves his mismanaged heritage, a dénouement which at the time China was utterly powerless to prevent; and had it not been for the action of England and America, all of whose influence was thrown into the scale, it is morally certain that already the process would have been far advanced. More than anything else the knowledge that the reactionary policy that followed was in the last degree galling to the Emperor himself, had excited the more generous spirit of England and America, who knew besides that a large and important section of the rising generation of statesmen were at one with the Emperor; and this influence it was mainly that prevented the reactionary policy of the late Empress Dowager from being used as a pretext for filching whole provinces from the Empire.

Unable by direct means under the circumstances of the case to accomplish its aim of bringing back the bad old times of the successors of K'ienlung, the reactionary party found a new card to play in touching the susceptibilities of the nation at large, by representing that its "sovereign rights" were being frittered away. Like most other party cries, which have been for a term successful it had its substratum of truth. The late Empress Dowager and her then henchman, the arch traitor LI HUNG CHANG, had indeed conceived the idea of bartering away the whole of the Manchu possessions of the throne, in return for the assistance of Russia; who was to aid them in their grand scheme of getting rid at one blow of all the other foreign Powers. It does not, indeed, appear that Russia ever entered into negotiations with this particular object, but she certainly gave LI and the EMPRESS DOWAGER broad hints as to the advantages she had to offer in assisting China, (i.e. LI and the EMPRESS DOWAGER), to get rid of the pressure being brought to bear on her by England, America, and the other friendly Powers, to induce her in her own interest to introduce some of the more necessary reforms, the lack of which, they pointed out, was the true cause of the alienation from the Government of the whole of the population. It casts no discredit on the tale that e'er the dénouement had come about, LI and the DOWAGER EMPRESS had parted in anger, and LI had been sent, in what was intended for banishment, to Canton; he came back unasked after the taking of Peking; and renewed his intrigues with Russia, which it may be remembered were only closed by his death.

Now, there is a clear connection between the new cry of the reactionary party and the misdeeds of LI; and without a knowledge of the hidden ways of that unpatriotic in-

triguer, the new development could hardly have come about. The methods may, indeed, seem strangely different, but the object of both is one;—that of preventing at all hazards the entrance of China on the road that leads to civilisation. LI HUNG CHANG hoped to bring this about by the assistance of Russia, and in return for this was ready to deliver over Manchuria, and bind China to a dependence not greatly differing from vassalage. With the same end in view, the modern reactionary finds himself called upon to raise the cry of "China for the Chinese,"—well knowing that China being once more entangled in the old fetters would have lost all power of helping herself. The whole is merely a distinction without a difference, both leading to the same inevitable goal,—a return to the periods of TAOKWANG or HIENFUNG, with universal famine and discontent, and the re-enactment of the Taiping Rebellion with all its horrors of pillage and destruction.

Lately we have had some notable examples of the process in the disappearance of the funds of the Hankow-Canton Railway and the necessary calling in of the hated foreigner after the would-be patriots had divided amongst themselves the entire swag. So, too, the Shanghai and Ningpo main line, opened to Kiahing, some forty or fifty miles, after a year and a half of work building a track which is a disgrace to all concerned, and the expenditure of nearly as much capital as the well-equipped line to Nanking. Even more disgraceful, is the deliberate attempt at swindling private capitalists out of undertakings on which they had already advanced in good faith, large amounts of money. The result, as far as the authors of the policy is concerned, has been perfectly satisfactory; both foreigner and native have learnt to their cost that Chinese honour, formerly ranking high in the world of commerce and finance, is now no more to be depended on, and both equally have learnt to their cost that the louder the "patriot" the more is he bent on self-aggrandisement. The immediate result as far as China is concerned, is that while foreign capital which was prepared to do much for the regeneration of the Empire, has been driven out of the country; native capital, but a little while since creeping cautiously out of its hiding places, has been forced back into its old concealment; and, as a factor working for the regeneration of the Empire, has absolutely ceased to exist.

CROCK V. KETTLE.

(Daily Press, 4th June.)

Manila has not forgiven ADMIRAL SPERRY for denying shore liberty to the men of the Battleship Fleet, during the greater part of their stay in Manila waters last year because the cholera epidemic, which had broken out in the City some months before, had not been entirely vanquished by the time the Fleet arrived. One of our Manila contemporaries, received by yesterday's mail, contains a six column article on the subject, headed "Ananias and the Cruise of the Big Fleet," being an article written by Mr. FRANK L. STRONG, Chairman of the Reception Committee, for publication in *Collier's Weekly*, but which the Editor of that journal returned to its author, and the *Cablenews-American* explains the refusal of the article by saying *Collier's* "need not be expected to do the square thing for Americans in the Philippine, notwithstanding that we have here a more sanitary city than even 'Little Old New York'." After

reading through this article which our Manila contemporary has printed as "Some Unpublished History of the Fight for Manila's Maligned Name," we could suggest several other adequate grounds for refusing its publication in a paper of the standing enjoyed by *Collier's Weekly*, but we are not so much interested in this question as we are in the unbridled license taken by the author in maligning the other ports in the East, by way of defending the fair name of Manila. Both Yokohama and Amoy are described as "death holes." Amoy is particularly designated "one of the dirtiest pest holes on earth" where "cholera has reigned unchecked from time immemorial." Of Yokohama it is suggested that at the time of the Fleet's visit "fever in deadly form" prevailed. Again we are told that "Ever since American occupancy of the Philippines, Hongkong, Shanghai and other coast cities of China have vilified Manila, envious of her progress. Plague stricken though they be and always have been, they have magnified our lesser epidemics and given us no credit for preventative measures, our successes being a reflection on their lethargy." In what way Manila has been "vilified" by the coast cities of China, the author does not deem it worth while to state. But we are favoured with the explanation that: "the strictures of the coast cities of China have a well-defined mercenary object in keeping tourists from visiting us and remaining longer with them."

Singularly enough the writer omits to add that the British steamship companies actually run lines of steamers from Hongkong to bring away from Manila any tourist who happens to stray to the much-maligned city! It is perhaps due to the writer of this diatribe to say that when he writes of Manila being "vilified" in the coast cities of China he is but repeating what many have alleged before in Manila. What foundation the allegation has, we have never been able to learn, and the writer does not take the trouble to enlighten his readers; but there is an implied suggestion that tourists are told that Manila is a neglected, dirty city and possesses no beauty worth going far to see. Moreover its climate has been reported as "unhealthy" while tourists who have favoured Manila with a visit have found it "delightful." On this it may be said that every member of the reading public in the coast cities of China must be tolerably familiar with the commendable efforts which have been made by the American administration in the Philippines to improve the sanitation and general attractiveness of the City of Manila, but while the newspapers of the China Coast have certainly hesitated to tell their readers that Manila is the sanatorium of the Far East, we have failed to notice the "vile slanders" to which the writer refers, nor have we observed any manifestations of a "joy unspeakable" with which the coast cities of China are alleged to have been filled because the Press of the United States has echoed these "vile slanders." These things exist only in the morbid imagination of the writer of the diatribe. Even in Manila we trust there are not many readers so credulous as to accept these inventions as sober statements of fact. What we appreciate best about the article, and what we think the public generally will best enjoy, is not the fecund imagination which this writer of fiction evidently possesses, but the subtly humorous and peculiarly apposite main headline which the Editor has given to it viz.—"Ananias and the Cruise of the Big Fleet."

CROWN AGENTS AND COLONIAL TRADE.

(Daily Press, June 5th)

The Committee which recently reported on the Organisation of the Crown Agents' Office found that possibly the most fruitful cause of discontent with the discharge of the functions which the Office performs is the existence of the rule laid down in the Colonial Regulations that articles, the product of the United Kingdom or of Europe, which are required by the Government of a Crown Colony, should be obtained through the Crown Agents' Office. This rule, the Committee affirmed, is to the general advantage of the Crown Colonies; but they nevertheless saw cause for recommending that wherever in any Colony firms exist able to produce the articles required or to carry out any needed works, and the Colony feels able to arrange for their adequate inspection, such firms should be given opportunities of tendering on the same conditions as home firms. It is scarcely necessary for us to say that the practice to which the Committee refer has been as fruitful of discontent in Hongkong as in other Crown Colonies. At the present time the Sanitary Board has under consideration a question put by Mr. SHELTON HOOPER embodying the statement that on a purchase of 2,800 gallons of Jeyes' Fluid through the Crown Agents' Office the Colony has paid between £60 and £70 more than local importers were prepared to supply it for. At Colombo the Chamber of Commerce has for some time past been in correspondence with the local Government as to the supply of medical stores generally, and the Chamber, in communicating instances to show that a tangible saving of revenue might have been effected by purchasing locally, made the general assertion that "in many past instances such good value has not been secured through the Crown Agents as would have been obtained had tenders from local firms been asked for and accepted." In Hongkong, a question which has been suggested by the instance Mr. SHELTON HOOPER has brought to public notice at the Sanitary Board is this: If it is possible to save a sum of £60 or £70 on about five hundred pounds' worth of disinfectant, how much might have been saved on an estimate of over a million pounds for railway construction by giving local firms the opportunity of tendering for as many of the requirements as possible? There is, we believe, in the Colony not a little soreness over the close adherence to the rule in the Colonial Regulations requiring all goods to be obtained through the Crown Agents' Office; and we may draw attention to the fact that the Secretary of State for the Colonies in forwarding a copy of the Committee's Report to the Governors of the Crown Colonies expressed his "general concurrence" in the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry, and said he had requested the Crown Agents to consider what steps are required to give effect to them. We imagine the Crown Agents will be in no hurry to advise the Colonial Secretary as to what steps should be taken to give effect to the recommendation designed to remove what the Committee regarded as "possibly the most fruitful cause of discontent." But it does not seem that the respective Colonial Governments need wait upon the pleasure of the Crown Agents in this respect. We take it that the general concurrence of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the recommendations of the Committee virtually cancels the objectionable rule in the Colonial

Regulations; at least we may take this concurrence to mean that the Colonial Governments are now free to give local firms opportunities of tendering for the supply of articles required. Judging from the evidence which has been furnished in Ceylon, and the small piece of evidence now under the notice of the Hongkong Sanitary Board, the Colony of Hongkong in these hard times could effect in the aggregate a considerable saving of expenditure by making the change indicated, and at the same time benefit local trade and industry.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Marvellous weather, ain't it? Don't talk about it. Everybody else is.

If the love of money is the root of all evil the value of the dollar is the cause of much perturbation in Hongkong. There are at least two score of men in the colony who could solve the problem with, as it were one hand tied behind them; but fate is unkind and they are not allowed to develop their ideas.

This suggests a problem—When is a dollar not a dollar? When it is subsidiary coin.

The sensation of the week seems to have been Mr. Shelton Hooper's discovery of a Chinaman washing himself. Some people wouldn't suspect the ordinary coolie indulging in this practice, but the fact remains that they perform their ablutions in a manner different to Westerners. This man, about whom there has been such a pother, was discovered washing himself over a fish tank. Naturally, it did not strike the visitors as being the correct thing for the man to do—I mean it was not the proper place, and so a protest was made against the lack of supervision which such an incident disclosed.

Now it might seem to us that it is not quite proper that a man should bathe in the tank out of which we get our fish. Neither is, it but what the eye doth not see the heart doth not grieve over. What occurs to me is this—isn't it futile to object to the man bathing in the tank when the same man or several have to wade into the tank to procure the fish which pleases the particular purchaser? There is, of course, a distinction, but it is a distinction without a difference.

Reporting an *al fresco* entertainment given in the Mulberry Palace grounds at the Korean capital, our Japanese contemporary at Seoul remarks:—"Many Japanese and Koreans were seen chatting intimately and strolling about in brotherly embrace in shady corners. It was towards twilight before the last batch left for home. We are informed that encouraged by this success some of the promoters have the idea of undertaking similar meetings quite frequently in the future." Oh, those shady corners! Same old story. Does this not indicate a point of contact, East with West?

I have often wondered why the varying modes of ladies' millinery fail to inspire the poets in England. How would this do as a suggestion to budding Laureates:—

TO A LADY IN A NEW HAT.

Oh, modest little candle

Beneath the bushel's shade,

Art thou a merry widow

Or but a merry maid?

Or art thou, eh? a busy bee

All honey, in a hive?

With just a waspish little sting

Designed to hurt a rival's pride.

But I won't go over the whole gamut of the present fashions in millinery. My object is simply to indicate to young poets what there is in the theme. No charge is made for the tip. When the whole range of fashions has been exhausted the Poet might direct his attention to the Eastern ladies who wear no hats, but on whom the insidious influence of Paris is beginning to make itself felt. Thus:—

The Turkish veil is going.

But the Turks take comfort that

It never will be missed when they

Have got the western hat.

A writer in an American newspaper with a trepidation, as he says himself born of knowledge of the rashness of any act of criticism of womankind, ventures however to make some comments anticipatory of the special display which is a feature of Easter in America. He says "Man's astonishment of course, has been in a measure discounted by what he has already seen, and mayhap paid for, yet to-day, it is permitted to suppose, the new fashions in headwear will be martialled as not before in all their varied glory. The inverted coal scuttles and bathtubs, the upside-down flower pots covered with artificial flowers and plants unlike anything that ever happened in the fields, and all the other queer creations which give a gargoylesque effect to their wearers, will be on view in force limited only by the numbers of our fair population and the purchasing power of dollars. And yet it is likely that there will be many poor souls who, try as they may, will be unable to see beauty in any of it all save in the faces underneath the headgear. Frankly, we are of the number. To our untutored sense the new spring hats are the worst examples of extravagant fancy gone mad. They are hideous in design and monstrous in execution, and compel the male observer to sigh for the big hats of last fall. Those at the time seemed evils hard to endure, but the milliners have brought us others we then wot not of. Why should beautiful women wear such things? The reason we know, but the "Why?" remains. A band of French milliners surely has no power recognized by the comity of nations to dictate fashion, for the simple emolument of their pocketbooks. And, anyway, to the average male mind at least, it is never good taste to dress in the extreme of fashion. A sensible man does not change the block of his silk hat from year to year, or the cut of his morning coat. Neither, we believe, would sensible women vie with one another as to who shall excel in eccentricity, deformity of dress and discomfort did they consult but their own good judgment. Is the conclusion then that women have in less degree than men the courage of their convictions? That is a hard question to answer, and perhaps it is as well to let the standmatter at interrogation point."

There is hope for some of our friends yet. According to Dr. Hollander of London, who read a paper at Cologne to the German Association of Lunacy specialists it is possible to bore a hole in a man's head and dig out all his silly notions with an instrument like a cheese taster. That means that it is folly to send a lunatic to the asylum. Far better to localise his abnormality, or rascality, call it what you will, put him to sleep, and then remove his mistakes or his bump of original sin with a cheese taster. If those operations became general, we could bring about the millenium in a very short time. That would be one up for the medical profession. I saw a newspaper suggest that the doctor might perform that surgical operation which it is believed is necessary for the Scot. But that is unkind.

ROD-RICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

A memorial service for the late Mrs. Pearce was conducted at the Union Church on May 30th.

Mr. P. N. H. Jones has been appointed to act as Vice-President of the Sanitary Board during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, or until further notice.

His Excellency the Governor has appointed Captain A. A. H. Milroy to be a member of the Pilotage Board during the absence on leave of Captain T. P. Hall.

The Rev. F. B. Meyer, who is making a tour of the East on a religious mission, is due in Hongkong on the 10th inst and will be here for ten days.

The case in which a drummer in the Buffs complained that he had been gagged and robbed one night by Chinese at Ship Street wharf has been withdrawn.

Chinese thieves have now turned their attention to street lamps. It was reported to the police on June 3 that the brass fixings of a street lamp at the junction of Macdonnell and Bowen Roads had been stolen.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner, solicitor, has severed his connection with the firm of Messrs. Brutton and Hett, and has started the practice of his profession on his own account at 50, Queen's Road Central, the office of the late Mr. O. D. Thomson.

William Vincent, conjurer, Victoria Cinematograph, failed to appear at the Magistracy yesterday to answer a charge of disorderly behaviour in the Hongkong Hotel and also in the charge room at the Central Police Station, and his bail of \$10 was declared estreated.

The Public Works coolie and two others, who were charged with the larceny of 1,806 lineal feet of pipe railing from different roadsides in Colony, were each sentenced by Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy to six months' imprisonment with hard labour and six hours' stocks.

Mr. J. H. Brown, master of the s.s. *Chenan*, has informed the police that while the vessel was lying at Quarry Bay Dock on the 30th May, some person stole from the deck during the night four cwt. of white paint mixed with oil, and five gallons of paint oil. The total value was put at \$60.

Miss Nicholson, of Cosmopolitan Dock reports that she lost from the Chamber of Commerce office on Wednesday, a marquise gold ring set with a large diamond and twelve small ones. The value of the ring was given at \$250. It is thought that the ring was picked up from the wash-hand stand.

Memorial Day was celebrated on May 31st by the American warships in the harbour by a salute at noon. It is a day set apart in America for decorating the graves of soldiers who took part in the civil war. On Monday morning several American bluejackets might have been observed wending their way to the cemeteries at Happy Valley in rickshas laden with beautiful wreaths.

The Governor has approved the following corrections in a previous Government notification regarding the re-naming of streets:—At Kowloon East Avenue will be known as Hart Avenue, and East Terrace as Gordon Terrace. At Yaumati Sixth Street and Gascoigne Road South take the name of Jordan Road, while at Mongkoktsui Nullah Lane is re-named Shang-tung Street.

"May you not have a brief for another year. That is the best the Court can wish you." Such was the sentiment expressed by the Chief Justice, at the close of the hearing of the case at the Supreme Court yesterday, in bidding farewell to the Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., who leaves for home on holiday, to-day. His Lordship added the hope that Mr. Pollock would have a pleasant time during his twelvemonths' holiday. The Hon. Mr. Pollock K. C. and Mrs. Pollock left by the steamer *Anhui* for Shanghai on May 30th. They are travelling home via Siberia.

A week ago an engineer residing at the Sailors' Home complained that while riding in a ricsha at West Point the coolie took him up a side street and with the assistance of another relieved him of his watch and chain and \$40 in money. Yesterday Inspector Robertson placed the ricsha puller and a coolie before Mr. Hazeland who sentenced them to three months' imprisonment each and to be exposed in the stocks for six hours.

A Singapore contemporary quoting from our columns the report of a case in which a Chinaman was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and six hours' stocks for returning from banishment, observes:—"There must be a different law in Hongkong to the Straits, where a man returning from banishment is sentenced to penal servitude for life, and the Court has no option but to impose the sentence on those found guilty."

Four Chinese were on May 31st at the Magistracy convicted of applying a false trade description to packets of opium. They had similar paper wrappers to those used by the Opium Farmer, and as they had die stamps in their possession for printing the paper, as well as labels and a quantity of opium, the case seemed pretty clear against them. The first and second were sentenced to four months' imprisonment and the others to two months' imprisonment each.

A report has been made to the police that between Sunday afternoon and Monday morning a robbery was committed at St. Stephen's College. The safe in the library was opened and \$600 in money was stolen.

His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—Ordinance No. 10 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend the Code of Civil Procedure. Ordinance No. 11 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinances 1903-1908.

On June 4 Mr. J. H. Kemp made an order for the return of Lim Chee Saing alias J. W. Dobson to Penang where he was wanted on a charge of stealing from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank \$70,000. Chief-Detective Inspector Kirke from Penang produced the warrant for his arrest. Prisoner offered no objection to being taken back to Penang.

Another story of the extraordinary impudence of the Chinese thief was told to Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on May 28, when two men were charged with breaking and entering a house in Ladder Street and stealing clothing and other articles to the value of \$24. The defendants are alleged to have taken their booty to the house of a Chinese detective, and instructed the houseboy that it was to be left until called for. Before the men called for the stolen property however, they were arrested, and yesterday they appeared before the Court. After hearing the evidence his Worship sentenced the first defendant to three months' imprisonment and six hours' stocks, and discharged the second.

At the Magistracy on May 28 Mr. J. H. Kemp ordered that Yau Kwai, foreman coolie on the Canton Steamers wharf, should receive \$5 out of the poor box. This was for gallant conduct in saving life. Some weeks ago we reported that two Chinese women, who were brought here from Canton, jumped into the sea from a steamer by which they were being returned, rather than, go back to China. One of the women was drowned, but by the prompt action of Yau Kwai in jumping overboard, the other was saved. After rescuing the first, the foreman continued to dive after the second woman, but was unable to find her. In presenting Yau with the \$5 Mr. Kemp commended him on his promptness, which was the means of saving the woman's life.

An interesting story was told before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on June 4. A boy rode up in a chair to 25 Conduit Road and only gave the bearers ten cents. They demanded more but the boy went inside and got the assistance of others and they beat the importuning coolie so mercilessly that he lay on the ground outside practically insensible. His companion had meanwhile reported the matter at the Police Station, and when the police arrived on the scene, they found the man in rather a weak condition. The boy preferred a charge of stealing a pair of trousers against the coolie. Mr. Hazeland found the coolie guilty of the theft of the trousers but discharged him as he believed he had been sufficiently punished. Two of the four boys charged with assaulting the coolie were fined \$10.

Richard J. Blake, an unemployed engineer, was at the Magistracy on June 4 fined \$15 and ordered to enter into a bond of \$50 to keep the peace. He had been guilty of creating a disturbance in the charge room at the Central Station the previous afternoon. Apparently, when he came up to the Central, he wished to see the Captain Superintendent of Police, and was about to force his way into the office when he was stopped by the Inspector, who offered to have his name sent in. Blake, however, would not have this, and became very abusive. The Inspector informed him that the Captain Superintendent was out but offered to take down any report which he liked to make. Blake, however, wanted to write it himself and took possession of the interpreter's desk. Inspector Fenton told him that that could not be allowed, that he was in charge there, but this only incensed Blake who became more abusive than before. He was ordered to leave but refused and had to be placed in the cells where he made so much noise that he interfered with the business of the Magistracy. However he was not so truculent yesterday when brought before the Magistrate and he was fined as stated.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 28th May.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT)
WITH LIEUTENANT BECKWITH, R.N.

A COLLISION CASE.

The action against the owners of the steamship *Holstein* for \$10,000 damages for collision with a junk was continued. Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Messrs. Goldring Barlow and Morrell appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Holborrow, of Messrs. Deacon Looker and Deacon, appeared for the defendants.

Heinrich Christiansen, second officer of the *Holstein*, gave his version of the collision. He said that he saw the junk on the port tack and saw her stern light. On going into the wheelhouse he heard the captain signal to the machine room and the engines were stopped. At the same time they put the wheel more than three-fourths hard over. They could not do any more with the hand gear. Meanwhile the junk continued on the port tack with the result that the stem of the steamer struck the junk on the after part. The steamer was canting to port. The wind was N.N.E. He thought the speed of the junk was sailing from four to five miles an hour. Their own speed until the engines were stopped was ten to eleven knots.

After further evidence and subsequent argument the hearing was closed, judgment being reserved.

Tuesday June, 1st.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS
PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE MITCHELL DIVORCE SUIT.

T. A. Mitchell brought action against John Lemm claiming \$15,000 as damages by reason of the defendant having on the 12th and 13th days October, 1904, and on the 11th and 12th days December, 1904, and on divers other dates before and after the said dates, wrongfully, wickedly and unjustly debauched, and carnally knew one Henrietta Maud Mitchell, then being the wife of the plaintiff and bearing his name. Plaintiff also claimed the sum of \$14,012.84 as special damages, being the costs and expenses which plaintiff had incurred of and incidental to the divorce proceedings instituted by him in the first divisions of the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Scotland, against the said H. M. Mitchell, his wife, in consequence of the defendant's misconduct, and in which divorce proceedings, the improper conduct of the defendant with the said H. M. Mitchell was alleged and proved to the satisfaction of the Court.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. D. V. Steavenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff, while Mr. M. W. Slade instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) represented the defendant.

Mr. Slade moved that the cause of action in this case should be dismissed because all the questions at issue between the parties had been decided in a previous action. In 1907 the plaintiff commenced an action against the defendant claiming damages for the adultery which he alleged the defendant had been guilty of with plaintiff's wife. That action came on for trial last year, and it was dismissed on the ground that the right to bring the action had been taken away by certain legislation in the Colony. In the latter part of last year an Ordinance was passed which affected that particular subject, so that now an aggrieved husband had the right to bring an action as to what was called criminal conversation against any person who was alleged to be guilty of adultery with his wife. The plaintiff commenced a fresh action against the defendant for identically the same offence as had been alleged against the defendant in a previous action. All the facts upon which the plaintiff claimed

relief in this action were set out as the plaintiff's ground for relief in the ear- action. The actual acts of misconduct alleged in the last action were to be found in the statement of claim coupled with the particulars which were ordered to be given in respect of the allegation in respect of that claim. All these acts of misconduct, alleged in the present action, were not fresh; therefore, to put the matter in well-known technical words the cause of action in the two actions was the same. In these circumstances he submitted that the very wholesome principles of English law came into play, by which a person was not allowed, when he had been unsuccessful in one action, no matter for what cause, to harass his opponent by a second action.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that the words *res judicata* imported, when used as a defence, that the matter had been adjudicated upon. Unless the question to be re-opened had already been adjudicated upon, it would be a contradiction in terms to apply to that matter the words *res judicata*. What was held when this action was last before the Court was that there was no right to bring the action. The reason for the conclusion at which the Court arrived was given in his Lordship's judgment. Legislation had since been passed giving the right to bring such an action as the present, unless it could be shown that the subject matter had already been a subject for the determination of the Court. No matter in dispute between the parties had ever been adjudicated upon.

After further argument the hearing was adjourned until to-day.

Wednesday, 2nd June.

The hearing of the action for criminal conversation at the instance of Thomas Alexander Mitchell against John Lemm was continued.

Mr. Slade, for defendant, resumed his argument. He stated that it had been said that this was not a decision upon the merits and therefore it could not act by way of *res judicata*. It was admitted that if the matter had gone to trial and a verdict had been found, it undoubtedly would operate as *res judicata*. Supposing the case had gone to trial and a verdict had been given, whether for or against the defendant, the result would have been exactly the same, because this point would have been taken, and in spite of the verdict of the jury if it had been against the defendant, judgment would have been entered for him.

His Lordship—How would it have been dismissed?

Mr. Slade—On my motion because the remedy had been taken away.

His Lordship—Would you take it on appeal?

Mr. Slade—Not at the trial, I am under no obligation to plead a point of law on my pleadings. I could have let this matter go to trial, let the plaintiff give the whole of his evidence, and then opened my case and mentioned this point of law as the ground of defence, and allowed the trial to proceed. I should finally have moved after the verdict that judgment be entered for the defendant on the ground that there was no cause of action shown to lie in the plaintiff. That was the meaning of the indisputable rule of law that a case dismissed on a general demurrer is a bar to any future action on the same cause of action because, on a general demurrer the defendant admits the whole of the facts as alleged by the plaintiff, but says that they do not give the plaintiff any right of relief against him. On that point I was overruled by your Lordship. You held that the question of jurisdiction did not arise; you did not leave me to make the true point at the trial, but practically corrected my objection in point of law to the true objection, which was that there was no right of action.

His Lordship—I held that the right of action which would have existed had been destroyed.

Mr. Slade—The decision was precisely the same as it would have been in a case in which damages were claimed, which in law were too remote.

Mr. Slade, proceeding, said that bad laws made hard cases all the world over. There was a danger of bad law being made to remedy hard cases. They were there to administer the law of England. He went on to deal with limitation cases in support of his argument, and concluded

by a reference to the Ordinance passed by the Legislature, in which he contended, that if the Act was aimed expressly at an individual, proper steps should have been taken that there should not be the slightest ambiguity on the face of the Ordinance. If it had been the intention of the Act to hit an individual then an opportunity should have been given to the defendant to object to an Act directed at him personally, which was nothing less than an act of attainder.

His Lordship did not agree that the Act was aimed at one individual. This plaintiff had been deprived of his rights by a mistake and there might be others.

Mr. Slade held that express words setting aside the effect of the judgment should have been inserted in the ordinance. There would then have been an end of the matter.

His Lordship intimated that he would give a formal judgment on Friday.

Mr. Slade asked if they were to be ready to proceed on Friday.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Slade—Your judgment will be against me?

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Slade said he would have to ask for a postponement on Friday as they had been unable to get into communication with their client. His attorney who looked after his interests had not heard from him for months, and though they had telegraphed all over the world for him, they had not been able to trace him. They were afraid he must be dead or very ill and not able to answer letters or telegraph.

Sir Henry Berkeley said they would have to oppose the application for postponement.

Mr. Slade—Because you want to get the man's property.

Sir Henry—We should oppose it. There must be some consideration—

Mr. Slade—You deserve no consideration for the way you treated us.

Sir Henry—Nor you for the way you treated us. Your client debauched his wife. We cannot consent to the postponement. We have lost one or two witnesses already and we may lose more. The plaintiff, as you know, is a seafaring man and is only here occasionally. He is coming here by special arrangement to-morrow in order to be present on Friday.

His Lordship suggested that the parties come to an understanding.

Mr. Slade—If there was any reason for believing that the man was wilfully staying away, I should not hesitate to bring it on in his absence.

Sir Henry—He went away in December. We believe he went away to avoid process. We cannot consent to a postponement.

Mr. Slade—The man has not been here for months.

Sir Henry—He ought to have been here.

Mr. Slade—Supposing the man is dead?

Sir Henry—Well you cannot sue a dead man.

Mr. Slade—They arrested his property which was released afterwards and proceeded by way of foreign attachments, furiously opposing his being allowed to put in any defence. He has not shown the slightest unwillingness to face and fight out this case. He never left until months after the decision in the previous case. Although he knew of this Ordinance he made no attempt to dispose of his property.

Sir Henry—He went away before the Ordinance was passed.

Mr. Slade—But not before it was published.

His Lordship—Of course, the case cannot stand over indefinitely.

Mr. Slade—We only ask for a little time in order to find out where our man is.

Sir Henry—The case was to have come on in March and was postponed at the request of the solicitor who wished to have his counsel present.

His Lordship—You cannot expect judgment to be given in the man's absence. On the other hand the defendant cannot expect the trial to be indefinitely postponed. Cannot you come to an arrangement?

Mr. Slade—No, it is hopeless.

Sir Henry—What is the date of the postponement—*sine die*?

His Lordship—I should prefer you to settle it.

Mr. Slade—They are implacable.

Sir Henry—This is the first we have heard of it.

Mr. Slade—We were always hoping to hear from our man.

His Lordship—Let the matter be discussed in chambers this afternoon.

Thursday, June 3rd.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM ON A SUB-CONTRACT.

Li Wo Shing, trading as the Wo Shing firm, sued Li Fook, trading as the Yee Sang firm, to recover \$233.49 balance due for work done and material supplied between 9th November, 1908, and 2nd April, 1909. Defendant had paid \$132 into Court, the amount he alleged to be due and owing in respect of the contract.

Mr. Bulmer Johnson (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon (of Mr. R. A. Harding's office) for the defendant.

His Lordship—I suppose it is a question of accounts, as this money has been paid into Court.

Mr. Johnson—It is a question of whether the defendant has been paid for what he has done. My case is to prove that he has been paid for everything he claims to have done.

His Lordship—I understand there is an architect on each side.

Mr. Johnson—Yes. Proceeding to outline the facts, Mr. Johnson said the claim was for work done to the wall enclosing the Naval Yard, and running along Murray Road from the Victoria Recreation Club almost to Queen's Road. His client was the sub-contractor, and was employed by the defendant to put in granite work and coping stones. The contract was to do the wall from the south end, from the cricket field end down to the iron railing at the V.R.C. The arrangement was verbal, but subsequently his client received a memorandum with a small sketch on it, which showed the price to be paid. Afterwards the wall was extended, and the sub-contractor was requested to do the additional work. He undertook the task on the defendant agreeing to pay the additional price which he submitted.

His Lordship—Was there a written contract originally?

Mr. Johnson—Only a memorandum signed by my client, which refers to the contract.

His Lordship—Shortly, what is the question at issue? Is it a question of whether the defendant agreed to pay an extra price for the extra work?

Mr. Johnson—I don't know. My friend refuses to pay, and we don't know what item he objects to.

Mr. Dixon—The defence is, that under the memorandum the plaintiff refers to, the price is stipulated. That is what he has signed, and what we have paid into Court, and we have Mr. Harker's certificate.

His Lordship—The question is whether there is a separate and independent agreement dealing with extra work and extra rates.

Mr. Johnson—I am going to submit that the memorandum put in refers to the contract, and not to the additional work.

Mr. A. Denison, a member of the firm of Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs, on being sworn dealt with a list of items contained in the particulars supplied, most of which were admitted. He did not think 15 cents per foot for work on plinth stone, and 45 cents per foot for work on coping stone was an unreasonable price for work done during Chinese New Year. A contractor would have to pay his men extra for working during that period.

After further evidence was heard, his Lordship reserved judgment.

Friday, June 4th.

A SUB-CONTRACTOR'S CLAIM.

His Lordship delivered his decision in the action brought by Li Wo Shing, trading as the Wo Shing firm, against Li Fook, trading as the Yee Sang firm, to recover \$233.49, balance due for work done and material supplied between 9th November, 1908, and 2nd April, 1909.

Mr. Bulmer Johnson (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon (of Mr. R. A. Harding's office) appeared for the defendant.

His Lordship stated that a sum of money had been paid into Court, and the claim as regarded the remainder would be divided into two parts. The first part was in respect of work not done in accordance with the plans furnished. It seemed to him that plaintiff took the risk of not consulting the builder, therefore that part of the claim could not be upheld. The second part of the claim was for extra work, and that was alleged to be a separate contract. His Lordship agreed with the plaintiff that the memorandum was merely a memorandum of the first contract, but it did not include the extra work in the second contract. Judgment would be for the amount paid into Court, and the balance due for extra cost of labour at Chinese New Year; in all, \$190.19 and costs.

A QUESTION OF PRIORITY.

Mr. John Hastings (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) asked leave to mention a matter in which a junk master was the defendant, and against whom there were a number of claims.

His Lordship—I was given to understand that you had been paid off in that case.

Mr. Hastings—I am sorry to say that is not so.

His Lordship—You come in priority.

Mr. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) remarked that Mr. Hastings had the prior right, as he got judgment some days before the others.

Mr. Kong Sing—I was given to understand that Mr. Hastings had been paid off. I have no objection. It is a matter for my friend Mr. Hett.

Mr. Hett—I appear for one of the plaintiffs, and I think legally that Mr. Hastings is entitled to priority, but as regards the claims between myself and Mr. Kong Sing, I think they ought to rank *pari passu*.

His Lordship—As a matter of fact, there was an endorsement to that effect, but it was not my endorsement.

Mr. Hastings stated that a sum of \$150 had been realised out of the sale of the junk, and he wanted only \$300 or \$400.

His Lordship asked Mr. Hett why he should get his costs first.

Mr. Hett—Why should Mr. Kong Sing? His judgment was given about two minutes before mine. I asked to have the case heard on Thursday afternoon so that nobody else could come first, but it was adjourned until Friday. Mr. Kong Sing did not protect the estate any more than I did because of his attachment, because it was under Mr. Hastings' attachment until it was sold.

His Lordship—You came in after Mr. Kong Sing had attached.

Mr. Hett—Certainly, but I don't think it would have been a justifiable expense on my part to have attached. We were in agreement upon it, and I knew that Mr. Kong Sing's attachment was on.

His Lordship—Then you got the benefit of his attachment?

Mr. Hett—But I will get no benefit if his costs and claim come before mine.

His Lordship—His costs come first.

Mr. Hett—That means that I won't get my full costs. I certainly think my costs should come in after his claim.

His Lordship—I don't see on what principle I could make that order.

Mr. Hett—As it turns out, Mr. Kong Sing's attachment was unjustifiable. If my friend was entitled to priority at all, it would be because he preserved the estate, and he did not preserve it. It means that I will probably not get my costs at all, as Mr. Kong Sing wants \$700, and Mr. Hastings \$300.

Mr. Kong Sing—Your Lordship will see my attachment was absolutely necessary. If I had not attached, the defendant would have paid off the \$300 and gone away.

Mr. Hett—The fact that Mr. Kong Sing preserved the estate does not redound to his credit in any way.

His Lordship (to Mr. Kong Sing)—I am not clear that I ought to give you more than priority for costs of attachments.

Mr. Hett—I agree that my friend should have his costs in priority.

Mr. Kong Sing—In those circumstances I agree to Mr. Hett's costs coming in priority to my claims.

His Lordship—Surely the practice here is only to give priority for costs of attachment.

Mr. Kong Sing—No, my Lord. I submit I would be entitled to all costs if that estate had gone into bankruptcy.

Mr. Hett—Your Lordship need not protect our clients, and they are the only persons concerned. I submit there is no rule of practice that gives anyone priority in these circumstances.

His Lordship intimated that he would consider the point, and adjourned the case.

DISORDERLY GERMAN SAILORS.

It was fortunate for the police concerned that the riotous behaviour of four German sailors at Kowloon on May 3rd did not have more serious results. The seamen, who are to proceed north by the transport *Oldenberg*, hailed a sampan at Tsimchatsoi to take them on board their vessel. As soon as all were aboard the Chinese craft, however, they wanted to take charge, and because the natives objected to their interference they were assaulted. A police whistle blew, and brought Detective-Sergeant Wilden, Sergeant Caygill, Lance-Sergeant Edwards and Constable Adams to the assistance of the boat people. When the police arrived on the scene two of the seamen drew knives. One of the armed men made a rush at Lance-Sergeant Edwards, but his jab missed its mark. Unfortunately for Sergeant Wilden, who was rushed by the other German, the aim proved true, and the knife passed through the palm of his hand. In the end, the police overpowered the truculent sailors, and they were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday with assaulting the crew of the sampan, assaulting the police, and behaving in a disorderly manner. As no objections were raised by the police, the men were handed over to the German Authorities to be dealt with.

SUICIDE OF A JAPANESE.

An inquiry into the circumstances of the death of a Japanese who committed suicide was conducted at the Magistracy on June 2nd by Mr. J. H. Kemp before the following jury: Messrs F. O. H. Kellinghusen, J. C. V. Ribeiro and J. O. V. Ribeiro. The body of the deceased was found floating in the harbour on May 19th near the coal sheds at Kowloon.

Dr. Pearce said from his post-mortem examination of the body, which was that of a young man of about 25 years of age, he was able to state that there must have been a great struggle for breath. There was a wound in the nature of a stab, in the front of the neck, just over the windpipe. From the very congested state of the internal organs, and the evidences of a strong struggle before death, he considered the cause of death was drowning, and not the loss of blood from the stab in the neck. The wound was consistent with a self-inflicted injury.

Henrich Jepsen, engineer, gave evidence to discovering a suit of clothes, a pair of boots, and a cap near the new Recreation Ground at Yaumati. Near the water's edge, on a stone wall, there were evidences of blood. Among the papers found on deceased were none bearing on the case. One of them, however, was a love letter.

A Japanese clerk in the N.Y.K. said he knew deceased in Japan, and later in Hongkong. He had often told witness he had trouble in Japan, saying he had lost all his money in trade.

The Coroner said deceased appeared to have cut his throat and then jumped into the water. The circumstances pointed to suicide, as he had had some trouble with a wife and sweetheart, who were apparently in need of money.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide."

Mr. Charles Denby, the retiring Consul-General for the United States at Shanghai, was entertained to a farewell complimentary dinner at the Astor House last Saturday evening. The dinner was attended by 170, and the spacious dining hall was draped with the flags of all nations. Mr. W. A. C. Platt presided, and proposed the toast of "Our Honoured Guest," in which he eulogised Mr. Denby for his work as consul and for his qualities as a resident. Mr. Denby in his reply remarked how pleasant his associations with the city and its varied interests had been and predicted a great future for the settlement.

THE PEAK TRAMWAY'S 21ST ANNIVERSARY.

A GLANCE AT ITS EARLY HISTORY

To-morrow is the twenty-first anniversary of the opening of the Peak Tramway, and it occurs to us that an outline of its history many prove very interesting reading at a time when an additional line to the Peak is under the consideration of the Government. Both schemes owed their inception to Mr. Findlay Smith.

The building of the Peak tramway takes us back to a time when there were very few houses on the Peak. As Hongkong grew the need of suburban advantages for the European population forced itself increasingly on the public attention. Every resident at some time or other had made an excursion to enjoy the cool, fresh breezes of the mountain tops, and the advantage of residence there in an atmosphere from eight to ten degrees cooler than in the town below, was recognised, but the cost in time and money of getting up and down precluded the possibility of any considerable development of the Peak as a residential quarter. When Mr. Findlay Smith put forward the idea of a mountain railway the public looked askance at the scheme. While admitting the utility and importance of such a line they doubted its practicability, and when assurances were forthcoming on this point, they still had no confidence in the enterprise ever paying its shareholders a fair return on their investment. But Mr. Findlay Smith was not discouraged. Mountain railways existed at the time in Europe and America and he was quite satisfied in his own mind that a mountain railway was a practicability in Hongkong. Nor was he less confident that the line would pay. In the early 'Eighties he calculated that with no more than from thirty to forty families living at the Peak, the annual expenditure of residents and visitors in reaching the top amounted to figures approaching \$45,000. And taking into account the highly probable augmentation of traffic, which is the invariable experience of railways running to fashionable or popular resorts, the projector felt confident of the success of his scheme. Mr. Findlay Smith had been travelling on several separate occasions in America, as well as part of two winters in Europe, and had taken advantage of these occasions to visit and make himself conversant with nearly every method of railway then employed in mountain ascent. From the original Clay Street and subsequent schemes in San Francisco to the two or three methods in Scarborough and so on to the Rigi, Monterey, Lucerne, the Rhine and Mount Vesuvius, Mr. Findlay Smith made a thorough inspection, and returned to this Colony thoroughly convinced that the enterprise would succeed in Hongkong. The project was put in shape by presenting to H. E. the Governor of the Colony the following Petition dated 20th May 1881:—

SIR JOHN POPE HENNESSY, K.C.M.G.
Governor of Hongkong, &c. &c. &c.
In Council.

The Petition of
ALEXANDER FINDLAY SMITH, of Victoria,
Hongkong, (formerly of the Highland
Railway Company, Scotland).

Humbly Sheweth:—

1.—That the growing prosperity and increasing population of Hongkong render the introduction of improved means of locomotion within the island a matter of urgent social and commercial importance.

2.—That public requirements in this respect would be most effectually served by the construction of lines of tramway; and that, having regard to the configuration of the island, the nature of its climate, and sanitary and economic considerations, the wire-rope system of the great American railroads presents indubitable advantages.

3.—Your petitioner respectfully approaches Your Excellency in Council, praying that your Excellency may be pleased to grant him a concession investing him with powers to construct and work, by means of a public company, or as a private enterprise, a wire-rope railroad, of a gauge of about 3 feet 6 inches, between the following points:—

A.—From a terminus to be fixed at East Point, via Queen's Road, to a terminus to be fixed at West Point.

B.—Along a route, to be determined by special surveys, from Queen's Road, in the vicinity of the Parade Ground, to Victoria Gap, and thence to a point on the southern slope, in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen.

4.—The advantages, especially to the business life of the Colony, of a line of tramway on Queen's Road, need no demonstration. As to scheme B, your petitioner respectfully submits that, if carried out, it would

Firstly,—Render valuable Crown Lands now unproductive.

Secondly,—Afford important facilities for the moving of troops and material, as well as ready means of access to the Military Sanitarium now about to be constructed. In this connection may be suggested the not altogether conjectural contingency that, with a regular tramway service to the Peak, it might become advisable, for economical and sanitary reasons, to barrack the greater portion of the Garrison on the higher grounds, in which event the Government would reap considerable benefit from the diversion to commercial uses of the extensive property now occupied by the military.

Thirdly,—Open up the coolest and most attractive parts of the island to residents and visitors.

Fourthly,—Add largely and beneficially to the over-crowded residential area of the Colony.

Fifthly,—Establish communication with the outport of Aberdeen, and villages on the southern side.

5.—In the alternative, your petitioner prays that authorization may be conferred on him to carry out either of the schemes above indicated, to make surveys under observation of the Surveyor-General's Department, and to perform all other acts essential to the promotion of the undertaking. And also that, if accorded, the concession for scheme B may be accompanied by a grant of the Crown Land required for the track, for sidings, and for buildings at different points, together with such privileges and easements as Your Excellency shall deem reasonable and requisite. The fact that proposal B, while indisputably a scheme of great public utility, is attended with exceptional engineering difficulty, and is one regarding which favourable financial results cannot be predicated with certainty, must be your petitioner's apology for bespeaking every consideration in the terms of the concession prayed for.

To this petition an answer was received from the Governor, through the Colonial Secretary, informing the petitioner that by going through the necessary forms of procedure there would be nothing to stop him from obtaining leave to carry out his ideas, provided he could get some member of the Legislative Council to take charge of the requisite bill. What followed is set forth in the following newspaper extract:—

"No sooner, however, had the question been mooted in the Council, and of course in the public papers, than suddenly a rival company sprang into existence, or perhaps it might more properly be said that certain gentlemen in the colony proposed to form themselves into a syndicate to control everything of this kind which appeared to them to have money in it. In June of that year our projector was not a little astonished to receive a letter from Mr. R. J. Alford, who signed himself the Secretary of the 'Hongkong and China Tramway Company,' containing a proposal for 'amalgamation,' and also to make his pet scheme, the tramway to the Peak, a kind of branch of the new Company's larger undertaking. It was about this time that the Hon. P. Ryrie appears to have joined hands with Mr. A. Findlay Smith, and the third item in the rival proposition was that these gentlemen should become co-promoters of the 'Hongkong and China Tramway Company,' with seats on the Board. These proposals did not appear to meet with a every hearty reception from Messrs. Ryrie and Findlay Smith, who informed the rival Company that the proposals submitted merely indicated an intention to promote the very same object which the latter

had been laboriously working at for a long time previous, and that the terms submitted were somewhat too vague and indefinite to warrant them either in withdrawing from their own special undertaking or merging it into that of the new Company. But on the 16th July of the same year a 'Revised Proposal' was drawn out and submitted to Messrs. Ryrie and Findlay Smith, to which those two gentlemen finally attached their signatures, and by which they consented to amalgamate their tramway scheme with that of the rival concern. On the 20th of the same month Messrs. Ryrie and Findlay Smith, who appear, in a measure, to have been reluctantly forced to compliance by a stronger body of workers, or supposed workers, were not a little astonished to receive another communication from Mr. Alford, informing them, with regret, that the general body of his promoters had not been able to see their way to ratify the instrument of amalgamation, and thus they were again left to themselves to carry out their own Tramway to the Peak undisturbed and unfettered by jealous rivals or other 'syndicates,' although by an arrangement under which power for both the Low Level Tramway scheme, of which Mr. Alford was Secretary, and the High Level Tramway should be obtained under one Bill, and their part (Messrs. Ryrie and Findlay Smith's) assigned to them by deed, which was afterwards accomplished."

The New Tramway Bill agreed upon by the amalgamated companies, was published in the *Government Gazette* of July 2nd 1881, and embraced five schemes for Low Level Tramways and one for the Peak Tramway which reads as follows:—

"A partly single and partly double line commencing on the South side of the South-West boundary of the War Department ground at its junction with the Garden Road, thence passing in a southerly direction up the hillside to the Victoria Gap, crossing over Kennedy and Plantation Roads by means of bridges, and terminating at the Victoria Gap at a point on the North side of Farm Lot No. 53."

The Bill was in due course passed by the Legislative Council.

A company was started to carry out the low-level scheme. The capital was to be half a million dollars, and the Provisional Committee, included at least half a dozen of the best names in Hongkong. The Hon. Mr. W. Keswick was the Chairman and his colleagues on the Committee were the Hon. T. Jackson, the Hon. F. D. Sassoon, Messrs. C. P. Chater, W. Danby, W. H. Forbes, W. K. Hughes, A. B. Johnson, J. A. Moseley and W. Wootten. The committee, however, found the general public apathetic, and the capital was not subscribed within the time allowed by the ordinance to elapse before the commencement of the work. An extension of time was applied for and granted. Renewed efforts to raise the capital were, however, unavailing, and it remained for a London syndicate to construct the low-level tramway some twenty years later.

But the high-level scheme escaped that fate. The privileges belonging to this scheme were assigned by the promoters of the Tramways Ordinance of 1883 (Messrs. F. B. Johnson, T. Jackson, W. K. Hughes and Ng Choy) to the Hon. Mr. Phineas Ryrie and Mr. A. Findlay Smith, and Government consenting to this assignment granted the assignees an extension of twelve months for the substantial commencement of the construction of the line. In due course a company was formed with a capital of \$125,000 in 1,250 shares of \$100 each, the Consulting Committee consisting of the Hon. Mr. Phineas Ryrie, Messrs. A. McIver, J. B. Coughtrie and A. Findlay Smith, and the General Managers, Messrs. McEwen, Frickel and Co. The shares were subscribed and a survey was at once made by Mr. J. F. Boulton, M.I.C.E., and the actual work of construction was begun on the 20th September, 1885. Mr. Boulton acted as resident engineer until failing health compelled him to leave the Colony for a time. The line was completed from St. John's Place to Victoria Gap, a length of 4,690 feet, in the beginning of 1888. The height of the upper above the lower terminus is 1,277 feet. The easiest gradient is 1 in 25 and the steepest 1 in 2.

The line was informally opened on May 23rd, 1888, by H.E. Sir William Des Vœux who congratulated the directors on the successful completion of their important undertaking and expressed himself as highly pleased with the trip. On the following day free trips were offered to the public and large crowds were taken up to the heights, including many European ladies. On May 30th the Peak Tramway was opened for traffic.

The patronage the line enjoyed from the start quickly dispelled illusions as to the likelihood of it proving unremunerative. Within a month the shares of the Company were standing at 250 per cent premium, and they subsequently went up to over 400 per cent premium.

Two years later Messrs. McEwen, Frickel and Co. ceased to be the General Managers. Messrs. John D. Humphreys were appointed to succeed them and have ever since held that office, while Mr. C. B. Buyers has been superintendent of the line from the day of its inauguration.

"Our local Stephenson," as the *Daily Press* of twenty years ago called Mr. Findlay Smith, seeing that the capacity of the present line is now fully taxed, brought forward three years ago a scheme for an additional tramway to the Peak, and obtained the necessary powers from the Government to proceed with the construction of the line. All the rights of the promoter were, however, subsequently acquired by the existing Tramway Company, and plans are now, as our readers are aware, under the consideration of the Government. It is very safe to say that the new line will not be constructed with the modest amount of capital which sufficed to make the existing line.

THE TYPHOON OF 1908.

REWARDS FOR BRAVERY.

It may be remembered that during February last, rewards were conferred by H. E. The Viceroy of Canton on certain members of the Chinese staff at the Taishan Station of the Kowloon Customs, for life saving and bravery displayed during the Typhoon of 27th. July last. The exertions of the foreign staff have now been similarly rewarded, and on the 22nd May Mr. Holworthy, Deputy Commissioner, Kowloon Customs, on behalf of the Commissioner, had the pleasing duty of presenting Certificates of Merit conferring Official Buttons, bestowed by the Viceroy on the following foreign members of the Kowloon Customs staff:—

Messrs. W. J. Hewett, H. A. Adamsen, (Hack (since deceased), J. E. Greenhalgh, H. Leissner, J. R. Tomlinson, H. Larsen, M. Garibaldi (since resigned) - Fifth Class Button and Merit Certificate; Messrs. L. W. Luckins and P. Pickford, Sixth Class Button and Merit Certificate.

Messrs. W. J. Hewett and H. Larsen, in the Revenue Launch *Kowloon*, were instrumental in rescuing 13 survivors from the s.s. *Ying King*, which vessel foundered off the Peak during the typhoon. At Taishan, under the direction of Mr. Adamsen, the work of rescue was gallantly performed by Foreigners and Chinese, Messrs. Hack, Greenhalgh, Tomlinson, Leissner and Garibaldi actually manning the gigs at considerable risk to themselves. The united efforts of Foreigners and Chinese resulted in the saving of over one hundred lives.

FLOATING MINE RECOVERED.

The search for the mine reported to be floating in the vicinity of Hongkong has at length been rewarded with success. Last Sunday week the government launch *Stanley* was dispatched to find the mine but returned without it. On Monday, however, the Harbour Master (Captain Basil Taylor, R.N.) sent a party out again to renew the search. On this occasion they were successful, coming across the mine between Green Island and Cheung Chau, better known as Dumb Bell Island. It was found to be a British 72 lbs mine, and its appearance indicated that it had been in the water for several years. It is satisfactory to learn however, that the mine was harmless.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY AT SEA.

FIVE MEN ASPHYXIATED ON U.S. NAVAL COLLIER.

CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY OF A FILIPINO QUARTERMASTER.

When the United States Naval collier *Nanshan* arrived in port on May 29th the officers brought news of a terrible catastrophe which had occurred on board. When the vessel was about thirty-six hours out from Cavite she struck the tail end of a typhoon. As she left port the wind was blowing gently from the south-west, but suddenly shifted round to the north-east and blew very hard. The vessel shipped some heavy seas and things carried on board began to get adrift. The water broke into the forward bulkhead, and thence found a way into the paint locker where various kinds of paints and a quantity of naphtha were stored. In the labouring of the ship, many of the tins in the locker were broken, and the contents mingling with the water generated a gas which caused all the trouble that followed.

After the typhoon had passed the crew proceeded to bail the paint locker. Third Officer Saunderson went on the bridge and relieved Chief Officer Larkin, who went to the bulkhead with the object of re-arranging stores that had got adrift.

It is not known who first entered the paint locker, which proved such a veritable death trap, but at 8.45 on Saturday morning the boatswain emerged from it covered with tar, and bleeding from the ears, and told Mr. Saunderson that the Captain, the Chief Officer, Mr. H. C. Rapp, another third officer carried, and some Filipinos were floating about in the locker, and suffocated.

Third Officer Saunderson called Mr. Dale, one of the engineers, and together they went forward to ascertain what could be done. The boatswain had told the story of how he had just managed to escape from the fumes of the noxious gas, so the officers first lowered a lamp into the paint locker, a very small locker, and on looking down they could see the bodies of the officers and crew awash in the water. As the ship was rolling heavily at this time Mr. Saunderson stopped her and "hove to", the object being to keep her as steady as possible. Then a wind shute was rigged up, and when the locker was somewhat cleared one of the quartermasters, Thomas de la Cruz, volunteered to go down and investigate.

A bowline was made fast round his armpits and he was lowered into the locker, taking with him another rope for the purpose of having the bodies beneath hauled up. The first man he attached to this rope was a Filipino, who was still alive. The man was pulled to the deck, artificial respiration was resorted to, and the result in his case was successful.

On being hauled to the deck after his first trip to the death trap, de la Cruz was partially overcome by the foul gases, but he again volunteered his services, and again they were accepted. On his second descent he returned with the captain, who was black in the face, being practically covered with coal tar. The same method of resuscitation was applied to him, and once more with success.

The brave quartermaster continued the descent into the fateful locker for seven times, and each time he brought up one of the victims. The third man he landed on the deck was Chief Officer Larkin, but unfortunately that gentleman was beyond the pale of human help when he reached the outer air. Three Filipinos were brought up after the Chief Officer, and then Mr. Rapp—all dead. The faces of all the victims were so black that it was impossible to distinguish between American and Filipino. In the case of each man, however, the crew continued with artificial respiration methods for some two hours with the hope of reviving the spark of life, but in all instances their methods were, unfortunately, without success.

At midnight, when all was done that could help to revive and assist the sufferers, the ship was again started on her course for Hongkong. Mr. Saunderson, who left Manila as one of the third officers, was the only navigator on board. The captain, who was blinded by coal tar, was in too weak a condition to do his duty, consequently the task of bringing the vessel to Hongkong fell to Mr. Saunderson. He

succeeded with the assistance of the clerk of the ship, who kept the look-out while Mr. Saunderson was making observations.

The *Nanshan* bears traces of the severity of the typhoon through which she passed. Her funnels are covered with salt, from the spray which swept them during the gale, while her bulkhead is stove in. The late Chief Officer Larkin was married and hailed from Boston. Mr. H. G. Rapp belongs to a well-known Philadelphia family, and the circumstances of his death are made sadder by reason of the fact that the marriage of his sister is about to be celebrated, and he was to buy her a wedding present while in China. Thomas de la Cruz, the Filipino Quartermaster who so gallantly went to the rescue of his distressed shipmates, is a native of Manila.

Captain Carver stated yesterday that he remembered descending the ladder and calling out, "Where are you, Rapp." After that he became unconscious and remembered no more. The boatswain also stated that he was overcome by the fumes, but managed after a time to catch hold of the ladder and drag himself to the deck.

THE FUNERALS.

The funerals took place on Sunday morning at 5 o'clock. The three Filipinos were buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, the service being conducted by the Rev. Father Spada.

The bodies of Mr. Larkin the chief officer, and Mr. Rapp, the second officer, were interred in the Protestant cemetery, the Rev. C. H. Hickling conducting an impressive service. A detachment from the U. S. S. *Helena* under Capt. W. W. Buchanan, and Lt. W. Friedall was present and also Mr. C. F. Engman, chief engineer; Mr. A. E. Deys first asst. engineer, Mr. W. Hutchins second assistant engineer, and the crew of the s.s. *Nanshan*. Capt. Carver's injuries did not admit of his attendance.

Mr. Larkin being a member of the Masonic Fraternity under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts it was intended by special request to hold a Masonic Funeral, but owing to the short notice it could not be carried out. A large number of masons however, attended the funeral, including Wor. Brs. H. Horley, District Grand Secretary, of the District Grand Lodge Scottish Freemasonry, Bro. J. J. Blake Naval and Military 848 S.C.; Bro. Lindblom, Bro. Anderson, Bro. Olsen and others. Wreaths were sent from the District Grand Lodge Scottish Freemasonry Lodge; Naval and Military 488 S.C., Eastern Scotia 923 S.C. and Naval and Military R.A. Chapter 302 S.C.

A SEA MYSTERY.

A strange story of the sea has just come to light. About two months ago two junks belonging to one of the outlying islands were fishing between Gap Rock and Lintin when something dark was seen floating on the water, the greater part of it however being submerged. The crews made for the object and succeeded in getting a rope round it and ultimately raising it by means of their tackle on board one of the junks. Unfortunately, however, they dumped it on deck, and a terrific explosion resulted. The whole crew were killed with the exception of a little boy who happened to be protected by a fold in the sail. He was picked up an hour later by the other junk, but as the occurrence took place in Chinese waters, it has not been officially reported. The object, according to the story of the survivor, was about six or ten feet long and it was not very thick. The impression is that the unlucky find was a floating mine which had drifted down here from the north. Though it is more than four years since the war was concluded this explanation seems feasible. It may be however that authorities on the subject can find another explanation of what at present is a mystery.

Manila is free from cholera. So says the Bureau of Science after a thorough examination of the dejecta of suspected cases. While three deaths from disease that closely resembled cholera occurred last week, none were Asiatic cholera as suspected, but rather ptomaine poisoning, known in Manila cholera nostras, as resulting from bacteria found in meat and fish, in which decomposition has commenced owing to the excessive heat.

FAREWELL TO INSPECTOR
WITHERS.

PRESENTATION AT POLICE RECREATION CLUB.

A pleasant function took place at the Police Recreation Club on the 28th ult. when Inspector Withers, the secretary of the Club, who proceeds home on leave to-day, was presented with a handsome gold watch which bore the inscription "Presented to Inspector W.B. Withers by the members of the H. K. P. R. C. as a mark of appreciation of his whole-hearted work in the interests of the Club as hon. secretary". The presentation was made by Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Deputy Superintendent of Police, in the presence of many ladies and a large number of the force.

Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson, in opening the proceedings, remarked that Mr. Wodehouse had very kindly offered to make the presentation to the gentleman who was seated between the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents. First of all, however, he did not think it would be out of place to have a peep into history of the Club. Once upon a time, as chroniclers generally began, there was no club. All they had was what there was at the Central Station compound, where nets were rigged to keep the balls from running into the Old Bailey or into the street. They carried on all right there, played the game, and had a lot of fun. In those days worthy secretary Withers first began to steer the ship. He took upon himself to do whatever he could to help them forward, and he continued on until at last the police got funds to build a matchshed, that was in September 1904. Since that time Mr. Withers had continuously done all he could to further the interests of the Club, to make people happy and to make the Club that for which they considered it existed (applause). He gave them an opportunity to meet together after the day's toil and to go home a little better than they were in spirit, and probably in health. For all this, it was the wish of members to show Mr. Withers how they appreciated it. With that end in view they had procured something he could carry with him, and hoped he would long be spared to carry it, and that on his return from a pleasant leave he still would not relax his efforts in connection with the Club. The speaker then asked Mr. Wodehouse to make the presentation.

Mr. Wodehouse said he felt very proud at being called upon to present a farewell memento to Mr. Withers, the more so, as most of those present knew, because he had been associated with the police since his childhood. His father was out here as first magistrate for years, and he thought that most of those present would remember his uncle. Mr. Hanson, in his practical speech, had said everything the speaker was going to say very much better than he could have done. But he would just say a few words about Mr. Withers. It was no easy task to be secretary of a club, even such a small club as this. There were the grounds and building to look after, the arrangement of matches and the accounts. To do all this successfully a man required a good capacity for business, a good temperament and energy. He had also to be very patient, and above all, very tactful, while one of his most arduous duties was that of gathering in the subscriptions, (A voice: He does it all right). All these qualities Mr. Withers possessed in the highest possible degree (applause).

Assistant Superintendent King then called for three cheers for Mr. Withers.

Three hearty cheers were supplemented by a "tiger."

Inspector Withers, who rose to respond amid prolonged cheering, said that this was the time to which he had looked forward to with diffident feelings. He was supposed to be going home, but as a matter of fact he was going away from home. His home, was in Hongkong. He had been here for the last 22 years, and here practically all his friends were. He came to Hongkong as a lad of eighteen; he was leaving it as a man of forty, with hopes of returning (applause). Since he had taken over the secretaryship of the Police Recreation Club it had been his hobby to make it a success. The one who promoted the Club was at present on leave; that was one of the respected superintendents, Mr. Hallifax (applause). It

was he who suggested it, and a few of the members carried out his suggestions to this extent: Mr. Hallifax said it was to be a cricket club; and they made it a cricket club; but they had also successfully introduced bowls and tennis, and owed a debt of gratitude to their superintendents for financial and moral support. When the Club first started there were 36 members, and some said it would not last a year. Mr. Hallifax was elected presidents and the speaker was elected secretary, while a few of those assembled were on the committee. They decided to make the Club a success, and now had a membership of 88 which he trusted would be soon increased to 108 (applause). They had experienced hard luck, but the good fellowship prevailing enabled them to pull through successfully. Assembled at the Club all were on a social level but none of the members forgot that business was business and pleasure was pleasure (applause). There was no reason why the different ranks in the force should not get on in both departments, and it was the spirit of fellowship and good feeling that would keep the Club going. In conclusion the speaker asked members to extend to Inspector Gourlay the comradeship they had extended to him in the past (applause). He was delighted with the handsome present he had received, and wished success to the old Club, which he was sure would continue to prosper (applause).

Thanks were conveyed to Mr. Wodehouse for attending, and that gentleman called upon those present to charge glasses and drink bon voyage to Mr. Withers. The toast was honoured, and the guest of the afternoon acknowledged the compliment.

HONGKONG PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the members of the Hongkong Philharmonic Society took place on June 1st at the City Hall. The Hon. Mr. F. H. May presided.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated the society on the successful season it had had and remarked that it had been less interrupted than the previous season by dinner parties. They appreciated this attitude on the part of the public. Undoubtedly the most important work undertaken was "The Wreck of the Hesperus," for the success of which they were indebted to Mr. Denman Fuller for his labour in connection with the orchestration of the piece. The committee also wished to thank Mr. and Mrs. Grove, Mrs. E. G. Barrett, Miss Brotherton Harker and the Rev. M. Longridge for their services. They were sorry, he added, to lose the services of their hardworking secretary and he was sure they would all join in extending their best thanks to him. The treasurer would have something to say on the accounts and he would content himself by remarking that they would doubtless have learned with satisfaction that they carried forward a balance of \$348 to begin the work of next season. He trusted that that season would be as prosperous as the last (applause).

Mr. BEAVIS (hon. treasurer) moved the adoption of the accounts, which was seconded by the Hon. BASIL TAYLOR and carried.

The committee was constituted as follows: Messrs F. C. Barlow C. E. H. Beavis, R. T. D. Sayle, J. A. Young, W. L. Pattenden and Rev. A. B. Thornhill; the appointment of secretary being left with the committee.

It was unanimously decided to ask Mr. Denman Fuller to undertake the conductorship of the society next season, and with a vote of thanks to the Chairman the proceedings terminated.

The annual report was in the following terms:—

The Committee of the Philharmonic Society have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the Season 1908-1909.

The membership of the Society shows a gratifying increase over that of last season. We have the following additional Vice-Presidents:—Messrs. C. E. H. Beavis, F. B. L. Bowley, W. A. Dowley, Major-General R. G. Broadwood, C.B., and the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, whilst the number of ordinary

members has increased from sixty-six in 1907-1908 to ninety-two in 1908-1909.

This large increase is mainly due to the alteration in the Rules, sanctioned by the Extraordinary General Meeting of November last, whereby ladies and gentlemen are permitted to join the Society as subscribing members with all the privileges of vocal and instrumental members except that of voting on any question under discussion at special or general meetings.

During the past season, the Society gave two concerts as compared with only one in the previous year.

The first concert was held in the St. George's Hall on Friday, January 8th, 1909 and included, amongst other items, Vincent's "Choral Fantasia" on Old National Airs, by a chorus and orchestra of some eighty performers. In spite of the inclemency of the weather, the concert was well attended.

The second concert took place on Tuesday, April 27th, 1909 and though, from an artistic point of view, it is admitted to have been in no way inferior to the former one, the audience was considerably less, due probably to the fact that the concert had to be given late in the season.

Hamish MacCunn's Work, "The Wreck of the Hesperus", by chorus and orchestra, was the main item at this concert, and the time and care necessary to produce a work of this nature rendered an earlier date for the concert, impracticable. No orchestral parts of this work being available, the orchestration—no light task in view of the very small number of performers—was so ably undertaken by the conductor as to suggest the desirability of adopting this practice for the future, having regard to the difficulty of obtaining a full complement of instruments.

The task of orchestrating this work (which is nothing if not descriptive) for the handful of performers available might have appalled a less capable musician than Mr. Denman Fuller but, in a few days, he produced a score, which gave the greatest satisfaction to all concerned, and which contributed in very great measure to the success of this item on the programme. The committee have since gladly accepted the orchestral parts which Mr. Fuller has kindly presented to the Society.

The committee desire to express their most sincere thanks to all those members who took part in the concerts, especially to Mr. and Mrs. F. Grove of Canton, Mrs. E. G. Barrett, and the Rev. M. Longridge, R.N.

The Society is also greatly indebted to Miss Brotherton Harker for the gifted manner in which she has acted as hon. accompanist to the Society throughout the season.

It is with regret that the Committee have to announce that Mr. Gelsthorpe is leaving the Colony and thus will no longer be able to carry on the duties of Hon. Secretary. His untiring and painstaking performance of such duties calls for the emphatic appreciation of the society.

As in previous years, the expenses connected with both concerts exceeded the receipts the deficits in each case being met from the Subscriptions or General Fund. The Society is, however, to be congratulated on possessing, after paying all expenses, a balance of \$348.54 to be carried forward to the account for next season, when it is hoped that members will again cordially support the Society in its efforts to promote music of a high standard in Hongkong.

F. H. MAY President.

THE VACANCY ON THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

As announced by advertisement in Monday's *Daily Press*, a meeting of the Unofficial Justices of the Peace is convened for the 10th inst. for the purpose of nominating a Justice as a member of the Legislative Council to take the Hon. Mr. Pollock's seat during his absence. We learn that Mr. Murray Stewart has agreed to stand, and that he will be proposed for election by the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and seconded by the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett. Mr. Murray Stewart's return to the Legislative Council will, we are sure, give general satisfaction, for when he sat as the representative of the Chamber of Commerce during the Hon. Mr. Hewett's absence from the Colony last year, Mr. Stewart showed himself to be a keen critic, a Rupert of debate, and altogether an acquisition to the Colonial Legislature.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, May 16th.

DISCIPLINE IN THE SCHOOL.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child" is a saw that must have occurred to most minds in this country in recent years at the remarkable demonstrations, often violent and insubordinate, of schoolboys against their teachers and the higher authorities. This tendency has certainly grown since the war, together with other bad tendencies, and it seems rampant to-day just at the time when the education authorities, from the Minister of State downwards, are endeavouring to impress upon boys and girls the importance of obedience and good behaviour in and out of school. The Imperial Rescript on education is regarded as the Bible of the Japanese school, but just as the precepts of the good book are disregarded in the school of life, so the precepts of the Imperial Rescript seem to be utterly disregarded by those whom they chiefly concern. Instances of petty insubordination have been numerous of late, cases of arson and assault on teachers in revenge for real or imagined wrongs have been recorded, and the latest example of schoolboy revolt, the suspension of the Higher Commercial School in Tokyo, is a matter of grave concern to the country.

THE QUESTION AT ISSUE.

In the first place it must be pointed out that the authorities have misled the public in a certain act. At the last session of the Diet a representation was passed recommending the establishment of a commercial college, and this was generally considered to imply the desire of the Diet and public that the Higher Commercial School be elevated to the rank of a college. Contrary to all expectations the Department of Education suddenly ordered the abolition of the post-graduate course of the school and the establishment of a commercial faculty in the Imperial University of Tokyo, giving the post-graduate students certain privileges when entering the University. In this it must be said the Government has acted, regardless of the Diet and public opinion, with its customary despotism, as evidenced in such examples as the postponement of the exhibition and abolition of the *pari-mutuel*. The Diet has been ignored, which is a common phenomenon, but public opinion, too, has been ignored.

REVOLT AND A TEARFUL FAREWELL.

Then the agitation among the students, 1,500 in number, began. Resolutions were passed by them, teachers resigned or were discharged, and finally the students left the school en masse. Last Saturday the final mass meeting of the boys was held, and on the evening of that day one of the principal buildings of the school was destroyed by fire, involving a loss of 30,000 yen. The institution was then suspended. A day or two later a remarkable scene was witnessed. Eight hundred young men, wearing their uniforms with the school badge on their caps, drew themselves up in rows in the narrow street opposite the school and solemnly sang the "Kimigayo." The anthem was repeated three times. They then took off their hats, tore the brass badges therefrom, and threw those insignia in a heap on the ground. As they were bowing in bidding farewell to their alma mater the tears streamed down their cheeks, and we are assured that the dense assemblage of on lookers, even the police and hard-hearted detectives, could not restrain shedding a tear in sympathy with the woeful young men. It must have been an affecting scene. In the meantime the Department of Education has expressed its determination to carry out its resolve, which of course is the proper thing to do, for if the authorities were to show weakness at the present moment it would be disastrous in its effect upon all who go to school. The students, by their acts, have alienated the public sympathy, much as the public may condemn the attitude of the authorities, for it is recognised that discipline must be upheld. What the Government proposes to do cannot affect the personal position and progress of the students, but they, from a false love for their alma mater, have shown a disregard for discipline and a disobedience that should not go unpunished.

THE LATE MR. BETHELL.

The death of Mr. Bethell of Seoul removes an unofficial figure who was making his mark in Korean affairs. Mr. Bethell came out to the East fifteen years ago, and settled in Kobe where he had an export business, his brother being the London partner in the concern. This is still flourishing, but about five years ago, Mr. Bethell withdrew from the business and went to Korea. He was a friend of the late Mr. Tom Cowan, the well-known journalist, who was the founder of most of the "Times" newspapers in the East, such as the *Manila Times*, *China Times* (Tientsin) and *Japan Times* (Tokyo). It was the intention of the two to start a daily in Seoul, but before the actual flotation of the *Korea Daily News*, Mr. Cowan, who had long been in bad health, grew worse and Mr. Bethell was left to undertake the work alone, which he did. Mr. Cowan removed to Tokyo and shortly afterwards in 1906 succumbed to brain disease. Mr. Bethell continued the *News* and during the war was correspondent at Seoul of the *Daily Telegraph*. From the signing of the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1905 he became a decided opponent of the Japanese administration, but unfortunately journalistic indiscretions, slight but irritating, marred his influence, which might have been very great had he been more moderate in expression and less personal. His connection with the Korea Redemption Fund proved his influence among the Koreans, and a successful action for libel at Shanghai vindicated his character of a charge that too many preferred to believe true. At the time of the Redemption Fund trouble Mr. Bethell would have had ground for successful libel actions against a dozen papers in Japan had something equivalent to British law been in force here, for he was treated unjustly from the first. Although he received scant courtesy and less justice from the papers at that time, it is a pleasure to note that at least one Japanese paper does him justice after his death. This acknowledgement comes from the *Seoul Press*, and it will be appreciated by residents in the Korean capital who knew Mr. Bethell and esteemed him as a man.

A PLEASANT PICNIC.

The officers of the British China squadron spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon on the river Tama near Tokyo a week ago, and enjoyed a sort of hospitality that was pleasing mainly because of its primitive character. Overlooking the Tamagawa, amid a landscape not at all unlike that in the homeland, the officers spent the first part of the afternoon in the gardens of their host. From a distance the slopes of these gardens looked like a solid bank of vivid red, being thickly planted with the pretty azalea, then at its best. This country mansion is surrounded with fine timber, and as it had rained on the previous day there was an air of freshness about the country that was delightful. The officers assembled on the lawn fronting the house and moving here and there were many a pretty kimono and obi, adding colour, while their wearers added grace and beauty to the scene. Outside, in the lanes and byways, a great portion of the country side had gathered to view the scene, and a lot of the simple country folk seemed quite disappointed that the officers had not turned out in gold-lace and medals. Near by, the private gardens of another magnate were thrown open to the school children, and here tastefully laid out were camelia, azalea, peony, and many other flowering trees. Boys and girls romped the afternoon away, until it was time for the officers to depart, when the children gave the gallant sea-fighters a send-off. But before they went back to Tokyo the officers had an amusing time on the river, being crowded in small boats and engaging in fishing for *ai*, or love-fish, a number of the funny tribe that is caught, broiled, and eaten on the spot. It is a pity there were not more excursions such as this, not only for officers, but for men also, for there are lots to be seen round about the urban districts of the capital. Unfortunately, however, the enjoyment of the sailors, British and American, has been marred by heavy rains.

EXHIBITIONS.

Although the Tokyo Assembly has resolved to proceed with the scheme of holding an exhibition in Tokyo in 1911, it has yet to be confirmed by the Aldermans' Council, as the superior body, and enthusiasm does not appear to be

very keen in the matter. The fact seems to be that the idea of holding the exhibition was but the child of pique and resentment at the postponement of the national exhibition by the Government. If the exhibition is to be held, it will mean that the tax on land in the city will be increased 50 per cent. to defray part expenditure. An exhibition of another character, in fact, a sort of national gallery, has just been opened in Uyeno. This is the art gallery established by public subscription to commemorate the wedding of the Crown Prince ten years ago. The building has been eight years under construction, and is designed to be permanent, being built of stone. It is destined to be one of the sights of the capital, for it contains the greatest art treasures in the country, lent and purchased.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

A new chapter has been begun in the history of Japanese business concerns by the appointment to the board of directors of the Keihin (Tokyo-Yokohama) Electric Railway of a foreigner, a representative of Messrs. Sale, Frazar and Co., who are the underwriters of a loan for two millions advanced to the company. The business was concluded at a meeting of the company yesterday. There has naturally been much opposition to the idea of a foreign director on the board, but evidently the company has been unable to obtain funds except at prohibitive rates on any other terms. The money will be used for the construction of the Rokugo bridge, near Kawasaki, and the extension to Aoyama, where the great exhibition is to be held. The construction of the Keisei (Tokyo-Narita) Electric Railway will shortly be begun, and for this purpose a loan has been arranged with a London syndicate for 1,500,000 yen. Narita is a town in Shimosa, twenty-five miles due east of Tokyo, and the country in between is thickly populated and with very poor railway accommodation. A representative of the London syndicate recently visited the proposed route. The subscribed capital of the company is 3,000,000 yen.

THE MACAO BOUNDARY.

An apparently well-informed correspondent writes the following letter to the *N.-C. Daily News*—

SIR,—General Machado, the Portuguese Commissioner, will shortly be in Macao, if he has not yet arrived, and he will forthwith meet his Chinese colleague, H. E. Kao Erh-chien.

In the meantime, it would appear that the Portuguese and Chinese Governments have tried to find a basis for the deliberation that will ensue between the Commissioners. The Waiwupu must have demanded from the Portuguese Minister the devolution of the territories which the Cantonese maintain have been unwarrantably taken possession of by the Portuguese, and hence the report that the Portuguese Minister has claimed a sum of about Tls. 2,300,000 for the redemption of these territories.

But, in view of the solemn pledges as contained in Art. II of the Luzo-Chinese Treaty of 1887, one would like to be informed on what ground the Imperial Government has put forward its demand. The irresponsible Cantonese agitators have proclaimed *urbi et orbi* that the islands around Macao and even the zone from the old city wall up to the barrier across the isthmus, have been usurped by the Portuguese, but, although inferentially we could clearly see that this was also the contention of the Imperial Government, I did not expect that the Waiwupu would openly adopt it in the face of an international pact recognizing as legitimate our occupation of these territories.

On the other hand, I wonder what has been the reason which induced the Portuguese Minister to be prepared to hand back these territories to China against a money payment. Has he found some legal defects in our title thereto? Or has he received orders from the Lisbon Government to acquiesce in the Chinese demand?

Altogether we occupy an area of 12 square Kilometres (about 7 1/3 square miles). Macao proper comprises something over 2 square miles and the dependencies about 5. Had we to comply with the Chinese demand, we should have to give up the whole of the dependencies and part of the peninsula, i. e., the area from the old city wall up to the barrier. We shall

then be left in possession of scarcely one and half square miles of territory.

We shall have to haul down the Portuguese flag from the Guia Fort after a period of 272 years, and from the Mongha Fort and Fort Dona Maria after a period of fifty-eight years and with the surrender of the San Miguel cemetery we shall have to deliver to the tender mercy of the Chinese the bones of our forefathers buried there.

It may be that there will not be so complete a surrender. The territories around Macao against which the Portuguese Minister has claimed Tls. 2,300,000 may comprise only the islands of D. Joao, Taipa, Colovane and Green Island. But, even should it turn out that this is the case, I wonder whether the two contending parties have carefully weighed all the chances of complications.

Macao shorn of its dependencies will be exposed to constant local maritime friction. China in occupation of the four little islands mentioned above will have established her right over at least part of the waters of both the outer and inner harbours of Macao, and the result of the dual control over a few square miles of territorial waters cannot be other than that which is apprehended. From such a position to the complete elimination of the Portuguese from South China there will be but one step.

Happily this is all, as yet, a mere speculation, as the real facts have still to be revealed. Appearances do not point to a speedy and satisfactory solution being in store for us. Already the Chinese Commissioner, H. E. Kao Erh-chien, has telegraphed to the Peking Government requesting the Waiwupu to send another able official to take over the work. He has been in the South the last few weeks, and probably he has found the task too onerous, owing to the outcry of the Cantonese.

Why then, not submit the Macao Boundary question to the decision of a third independent party? This is, indeed the best course to be pursued by both sides, in consequence of their irreconcilable views.

I am, etc.,

A PORTUGUESE.

May 18, 1909.

CHINA AND THE FAKUMEN RAILWAY QUESTION.

The *Japan Mail*, commenting on the present position of the question says:—We are reluctant to attribute motives, yet we are fully persuaded that in the matter of the Fakumen Railway China has conspicuously adopted the device formulated by one of her shrewdest statesmen forty-five years ago,—the device of setting her opponents by the ears. She does not care a row of pins about the Fakumen Railway for its own sake. Is it at all likely that she should care, when the question is one of equipping with means of communication a remote and sparsely populated outskirts of her empire, while tralal centres in important regions are left unprovided. But she does care very much about breaking up the Anglo-Japanese alliance, one of whose main objects she considers derogatory to her own dignity, and which may at any moment prove a highly inconvenient combination. She judged shrewdly that if English financiers could be directly interested in the Fakumen Railway, they would resent Japan's inevitable objection to its construction, and events have proved the accuracy of her forecast. Does anybody seriously imagine that British subjects or British officials would have displayed the faintest concern about the Fakumen Railway had not its building offered a desirable channel for the investment of English capital; or that China would have been in such a hurry to build it had she not perceived in it an effective weapon for striking at the Alliance, on the one hand, and for diminishing, on the other, the value of the property which she will soon acquire a conventional right to purchase from Japan? China has handled her cards adroitly. But surely intelligent observers, who fully detect in general questions her traditional policy of diplomatic delay, and recognise her habitual manoeuvre of playing off one nation against another, will not insist on thinking that she has abandoned that policy and eschewed that habit in her dealings with Japan alone?

THE LAI HING CASE.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

On the 8th inst we published a telegram announcing the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the matter of the Lai Hing firm (bankrupts)—Wakeman, Official Receiver and Trustee v. Wong Li Shi, administratrix of the estate of Wong Ka Chuen, deceased.

We have now the *Times* report of the case which reads as follows:—

This was an appeal by the Official Receiver as the trustee in bankruptcy of the Lai Hing firm from a judgment of the full Court of the Supreme Court of Hongkong (consisting of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Wise) of July 4, 1906, which dismissed an appeal of the Official Receiver from a verdict and judgment in the trial of an issue before the Chief Justice and jury.

Mr. Younger, K.C., Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (of the Hongkong Bar), and Mr. A. Romer Macklin were counsel for the appellant; Mr. F. Gore-Browne, K.C., and Mr. A. F. Wooten for the respondent.

On November 24, 1905, the Supreme Court of Hongkong directed an issue to be tried to determine whether Wong Ka Chuen was at the date of the presentation of the petition in bankruptcy against the Lai Hing firm a partner in the firm. The Chief Justice directed that the parties to the issue should file their respective statements of facts within three weeks in a sealed envelope to be opened by the Court. The issue was tried in April, 1906, before the Chief Justice and a jury, the hearing lasting six days. Wong Ka Chuen's case was that he ceased to be a partner in 1898. In the result the jury found that Wong Ka Chuen was not a partner in the firm at the date of the presentation of the bankruptcy petition; and judgment was entered for him accordingly. An application was made to the full Court by the Official Receiver for an order setting aside the verdict and for a new trial, on the ground that the Chief Justice had misdirected the jury on 13 heads, and also that the verdict was against the weight of and was contrary to the evidence, and of the discovery of new evidence. The full Court dismissed the application with costs, and from that decision the Official Receiver now appealed to the Judicial Committee. He asked for a new trial of the issue.

In the course of the argument for the appellant counsel mentioned that at the close of the hearing of the issue the Chief Justice said that several native witnesses had to his mind been guilty of the most flagrant conspiracy to defraud the alleged partner Wong Ka Chuen and had each one been guilty of the most corrupt perjury, and he committed each of them to prison for three months without hard labour. They were bailed out in a few days, and appealed to the Judicial Committee against the Chief Justice's order. The Judicial Committee decided in their favour, reversed the order of the Chief Justice, and directed them to be released. That, however, had nothing to do with the present appeal.

At the close of the arguments on both sides,

The Lord Chancellor, in delivering judgment, said their Lordships were not able to advise his Majesty that there ought to be a new trial in this case. The appeal had not been argued on the footing that the verdict was against the weight of evidence, nor was it capable of being argued in that way apart from the summing-up. The summing-up of the learned Judge had been the subject of the criticisms which were made the foundation of this appeal. Their Lordships did not think that that summing-up was wholly satisfactory, and several criticisms were made on it which, in their opinion, were well founded. There was certainly a great deal to be said in support of a new trial on the ground of the great weight of certain parts of the evidence adduced on behalf of the plaintiff, but their Lordship could not forget that this case was tried by a jury who knew Hongkong and Chinese customs, and how much reliance was to be placed on Chinese evidence. Although the matters in issue might have been presented in another way in the summing-up, yet the jury, who heard the evidence during a period of five or six days, also heard the arguments of counsel. It was not a circumstance to be by

any means forgotten that since the trial the defendant in the issued (Wong Ka Chuen), who was the principal if not the only really relevant witness called on behalf of his own case, had died, so that it would be extremely difficult to retry this case. In these circumstances their Lordships would humbly advise his Majesty to dismiss this appeal, but they would not allow any costs on either side, thinking that there was justification for raising the points that had been raised.

Mr. Sharp.—I take it that the Official Receiver will be able to take his costs out of the estate?

The Lord Chancellor.—Is that for us or the Hongkong Court?

Mr. Sharp.—I think for the moment it is for your Lordships. At any rate, an intimation on the point would be a guide.

The Lord Chancellor.—It is not our function to advise the Court.

After some further conversation the Lord Chancellor said that the question being asked whether the Official Receiver's costs ought to be allowed out of the estate, this much might be said, that in their Lordships' opinion the Official Receiver was perfectly justified in appealing to this Board. If it was the Court in Hongkong which had to decide, it would no doubt pay attention to that expression of opinion.

The Lord of Appeal present when this judgment was delivered were:—The Lord Chancellor Lord Ashbourne, Lord James of Hereford, and Lord Gorell.

LLOYDS FIRE INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

CONFLICT WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

The *Jiji*, in noting that the foreign insurance companies which have representative agents and transact business in Japan each deposit a security of ¥100,000, states that Lloyds is undertaking fire insurance business and has succeeded in obtaining a contract from the Kanegafuchi Spinning Company to cover a risk of ¥400,000 on certain buildings. The Government thereupon issued an order to Lloyds requesting them to deposit the usual security of ¥100,000. Lloyds, however, refused to obey the order, contending that the concern was not a joint stock company, but a credit corporation. Lloyds did not maintain an agent in Japan, but merely appointed canvassers, and insurance policies were signed in England, so that the Government was unable to enforce its demand for security.

On hearing of this, says the *Jiji*, all the other foreign insurance companies have informed the Japanese Government that if Lloyds are allowed to take risks in Japan without depositing security, the other companies will pursue the same course. Lloyds is taking extensive fire risks in Germany, and the Japanese Government is making investigations as to the manner in which this business is managed in Germany. The eventual result of this question is being awaited with interest.—*Japan Chronicle*.

FOREIGN INSURANCE OFFICES IN JAPAN.

A Tokyo despatch states that some 36 foreign insurance companies are represented in Japan and that the same have hitherto enjoyed special and preferential treatment by the Government, as compared with the administration controlling Japanese companies. Now that the Government proposes to revise the rules regulating native concerns, instituting, however, more rigorous strictures in consequence of recent disclosures, the opportunity will also taken to establish rules controlling foreign offices, with a view to bringing them more in line with Japanese companies.

A Shanghai Municipal Notification, dated May 26, announces that "the Siccawei Road is re-opened to traffic with effect from this date." The *N.-C. Daily News* understands that this step has been taken in consequence of the opening of negotiations with the Spanish authorities, of which there is every reason to anticipate a favourable conclusion.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

NANNING.

From a Report on the Treaty Port of Nanning by Mr. G. W. W. Pearson, acting British Consul at Pakhoi, we make the following extracts:—

The commercial importance of Nanning as a trade centre had become so evident that on April 1, 1907, the Imperial Maritime Customs sent a staff to establish a custom-house at the port. Native merchants were, however, slow to avail themselves of the advantages which it offered; the old system of covering goods by inward and outward transit passes taken out at Wuchow for places above Nanning being still followed to a large extent. It follows that much of the cargo passing through Nanning does not appear in the customs returns. The total value of the exports and imports passing through the customs-house during the last three quarters of 1907 was estimated at 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 taels (1,000,000L.), but, as nearly all the exports are either covered by these Wuchow transit passes, or else pass through the native customs, this figure does not give an accurate idea of the large trade of this natural commercial centre, which attracts about 60 per cent. of the trade of Kuangsi. The actual customs revenue collected during nine months was but 24,092 taels (3,915L.). No statistics are available to show the proportion of exports to or imports from foreign countries, but Nanning shows very distinct signs of progress, and all foreign goods are rapidly growing in popular favour.

Shipping.—Most of the traffic to and from Nanning is carried on by native junk. Between Nanning and Wuchow one motor boat runs uninterruptedly all the year round. This draws 18 inches of water, with 5 tons of cargo on board, and is owned by Messrs. Barker and Co., Wuchow. There are also Chinese-owned launches, which are of deeper draught, but can at most states of the river tow a houseboat or junk alongside. During the first half of 1908, 24 foreign launches entered with a tonnage of 766 tons; 179 junks chartered by foreign firms entered during 1907. These are tenders to their West River steamers which reach Wuchow. The junks vary from 15 to 50 tons and, under ordinary circumstances, take 25 days up and 10 to 12 days down, according to the state of the river.

There is also a small fleet of stern-wheel boats of shallow draught which enables them to ply when launches cannot run up stream. They retire to the higher reaches when quicker boats competing make their business dull.

General notes on Nanning.—The population of Nanning is said to be 100,000, and is a very mixed community. The richer merchants are mainly Cantonese; the labouring classes are natives of Kuangsi, apathetic and unenterprising, but not often anti-foreign. Four dialects are heard in the streets, Cantonese, Hakka, Kuan Hua and an aboriginal tongue somewhat resembling Siamese. The Kuan Hua is remarkably pure, and has been retained by the descendants of the military colonists sent here in the eleventh century A.D. The "brigands," of whom much is heard, are mainly impoverished and discontented peasants and disbanded soldiers, armed with smuggled weapons, of which there would seem to be no dearth. The character of the country surrounding Nanning provides natural strongholds for these.

The officials of the Nanning district are at present a young and progressive set. There are resident in the city the Governor Ch'ang Ming Chi, for six months in the year, a taotai, prefect, district magistrate and a military provincial commander. Although certain minor officials have raised objections to the operations of the Imperial Maritime Customs, they have been firmly opposed by the taotai and governor. Police with uniforms and batons are stationed throughout the city and a fire brigade exists with serviceable manual engines.

An attempt has been made to boom Nanning as a port. A reservation has been set apart on the right bank of the Tso Chiong, partly situated on the old site of the former city. It is fronted by a bunding about 30 feet high and 1,300 feet long. The cost of this wall was about 30,000 dol., that of the land forming the reservation 36,000 dol. The wall was erected without

reference to any foreign expert, with the result that the ground behind it was not properly filled in or drained and portions of the wall have from time to time collapsed. It has at last become so dangerous that the floating customs-house anchored at its foot has been towed to the opposite side of the river.

The prime mover in the reservation scheme was Ting, Salt Commissioner at Canton. Three short roads have been macadamised and laid out, but two buildings only (one being the settlement office), with some ponds and waste land, now occupy the site.

The regulations governing the settlement are as follows:—

1. A special board shall administer the affairs of the settlement, presided over by the customs taotai, the other members to be Consuls of the foreign Powers and two representative merchants, one Chinese the other foreign, to be elected by the householders.

2. The Board will have the following departments:—(a) Public works department; (b) police department; (c) judicial department; (d) financial department.

3. Land may not be purchased outright, but is to be leased for periods of 30 years, which lease may be further extended for a further period of 30 years.

The yearly rent for land so leased is to be:—60 dol. per mow for land on the river front, 50 dol. per mow between frontage and back and 40 dol. for land behind.

Further, in addition to such rent, 2 dol. per mow per annum land tax is to be paid. Application by foreigners for sites is to be made to the customs taotai through their Consuls.

No applications for sites have yet been made by foreigners. The building of a customs house, a market place and the laying out of public buildings are also projected, the cost to be defrayed from Government funds.

For some time the idea of transferring the capital of Kuangsi from Kueilin has been seriously entertained, and seems about to become an accomplished fact. Estimates have been called for and the cost put down at 1,000,000 dol., a sum which will no doubt well cover actual expenses. The Governor of the province has been lately residing for six months alternately in the two cities.

It will be necessary to repair and build yamens and quarters for the official retinue. As half of the actual inhabitants of Kueilin are said to be dependents on various yamens, the transfer of the official capital would entail an immigration of many thousands into Nanning. Kueilin would shrink to the unimportance of a mere market town.

A military training school is projected for on the following lines:—A accommodation is to be furnished for four divisions (8,000) troops to be recruited from other provinces. During their three years' training they are to receive 5 taels per mensem; after three years they are to return to their homes and to draw a retainer of 3 taels per mensem. The initial expenses of this scheme are estimated at 1,000,000 dol. Land has already been acquired to the south-east of the city for this purpose. The chief mover in the project is ex-Taotai Ch'uang.

Timber for the barracks is already being brought to the spot in junks and unloaded, while matsheds are erected on the bund and labelled "barracks," in preparation for the arrival of troops, probably engineers from Kueilin, who are being transferred to Nanning.

Waterways.—The Governor, Chang Ming Chi, is discussing schemes for the improvement of the waterways throughout the province. As, however, little inclination is shown to obtain a competent survey or estimate for the cost necessary for the improvement of the West River from Wuchow to Nanning, in which stretch alone exist 22 rapids, it seems unlikely that anything practical will be attempted in the near future.

Banks and Currency.—There are a large number of banks established at Nanning, which advance money on cargo at exorbitant interest. They thrive on the discount and exchange between Nanning and Canton. Freight, insurance and interest are so high that goods sent from Canton to Nanning cost 30 to 40 per cent. more at the latter port. The Currency in use is the subsidiary silver coinage of Canton and Hongkong, the various dollars current in South China and French piastres; 100 Yung

P'ing local taels are worth 138.055 clean, unchopped dollars.

Chief trade routes.—Nanning is the natural distributing centre of Kuangsi, and to a large extent drains the provinces of Yunnan and Kueichow.

Kueilin is reached in 12 days via Pin Chou, Liu Chou and the Yung Fu River.

The road to Ch'ing Yuan is also via Pin Chou and the Hung Shui River, taking about 15 days.

Yunnan is reached via Posé, Pa Ai and Hsi Lin, thence to Kuang Nan Fu; or by land via Lu Hsu, Pin Chou and Tu Shan Chou in Kueichow.

The road to Mengtze branches off from the above at Pa Ai, and goes via K'ai Hua Fu.

All the above routes pass Posé. There exist many other routes radiating from various towns on the West River and its branches above Nanning, but these hardly fall within the scope of this report.

The less important connections are:—

1. From Nanning by the West River to T'eng Hsien, down the Ch'ien Chiang to Fu Mien and Yu Lin Chou, and thence to Pakhoi.

2. Nanning by the West River to Kuei Hsien, to Fu Wang, Hsiao Chiang and Chiao Chou.

3. Nanning to Lang Ch'ing via Hsiao Tung to Ch'in Chu, thence to Na Lai and Lienchow. This route is mountainous, difficult and almost abandoned owing to the presence of banditti.

In conclusion, there is little doubt that Nanning will continue to maintain the commercial prosperity which its natural position assures it. The greater facilities for traffic offered by the constant launch connection with Wuchow are being fully made use of. The local merchants are rapidly losing their conservatism, and the present progressive set of officials are anxious to further the commercial interest of the city by radical improvements.

OPIUM AND CIGARETTES AT FOOCHEW.

Stern measures are being taken to stop opium cultivation in Foochow, says the correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, the Viceroy even sending out soldiers to a few places where the people were particularly determined to continue the cultivation of the plant. In one or two instances the officials are said to have taken bribes to allow the opium to be grown, but generally speaking it was cleaned out of the vicinity of Foochow, pretty thoroughly, before the soldiers went out, that is to say, after the crop had been gathered.

At Kucheng the people by private subscription raised the amount of the government tax which would have been derived from the sale of opium and received permission to close the business at once, so that within the month, according to the promise of the magistrate, there will not be a place licensed for the sale of the drug in Kucheng.

There is much excitement in Foochow just now over the cigarette. Some days ago Bishop Wilson Lewis of the Methodist Episcopal Church was asked to address the reform societies and in the course of his address he spoke strongly against cigarettes. The reform societies took the matter up and began to circulate literature against the use of the article. Much feeling was created. It is said that blows have been struck and some timid folk predicted a riot. Representatives of the tobacco interest took the matter to the consuls, but would not seem, hitherto, to have got much relief. A monster mass meeting is called for the 13th instant to discuss the question, and it is expected that the government schools and all the leading reform societies will be represented.

In an article on Chinese Banking in the *Peking Daily News* the following paragraph occurs:—An incident which is more than illuminative occurred a few weeks ago when a certain Chinese went to the Post Office to purchase some stamps. He tendered a bank note of the Ta Ching Bank, but was requested to pay with a note of a foreign bank, which he also had in his possession at the time. The foreign note was thus preferred to a currency of its own Bank. This is a state of affairs which for the credit of Chinese Banking institutions should not be permitted, and no effort to inspire confidence, at any rate in the Government Bank, should be spared.

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

The Gymkhana Club had a glorious afternoon for their second meeting at Happy Valley on May 29th; consequently the event was the most successful that the Club have experienced for some time. There was a large and representative attendance, which included His Excellency the Governor and party. The course was fast, and the racing good, many exciting finishes being witnessed. The amounts paid out by the Cash Sweeps were considerably in excess of previous payments at Gymkhanas. The inviting day attracted quite a number of ladies to the course, where the Buffs Band, under the baton of Bandmaster Hewitt, considerably enlivened the proceedings with an admirable programme of music. Patrons and officials of the Club are:—

Patrons: His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.; His Excellency Vice-Admiral Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton, C.B.; His Excellency Maj.-Genl. R. G. Broadwood, C.B.; Rear-Admiral H. Lyon, R.N. Committee: The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club, (Ex-Officio). The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., Messrs J. Johnstone, J. A. Jupp, H. P. White, G. K. Hall Brutton, John Paterson and Major W. A. Eaton Judge: Mr. J. A. Jupp and Major W. A. Eaton, Handicappers; Messrs H. P. White and F. L. Deacon, Clerks of the Scales; Mr. H. J. Gedge, Starter; Mr. J. Paterson, and Starter; Mr. M. S. Sassoon, Time Keeper; Mr. C. Gordon Mackie, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

FIVE FURLONGS FLAT RACE.—For subscription griffins of any season which have not won an official race. Weight for inches as per scale. Unplaced runners at official meeting 1909 allowed 3 lbs. Winner at 1st Gymkhana to carry 10 lbs. extra. To be ridden by jockeys who have not won an official race in Hongkong, or China. Entrance fee \$5. 1st prize presented; 2nd prize: \$25.00. Entrance fees to go to winner.

Mr F. B. Deacon's Butcher, 152 lb

Mr H. G. Moore's Lyemun, 155 lb (owner) 1

Mr K. K's Highland Heather, 149 lb (owner) 2

Major Cobbe's Thief, 151 lb, 2 lb overweight (Mr Klimanek) 3

Mr D. L. M's Tamar, 162 lb, 10 lb penalty (Col Bayard) 0

Mr C. E. G. Davidson's Seraph, 149 lb (Mr Leah) 0

(Mr Bryce) 0

After a false start the field of six was dispatched, Tamar taking the lead and being closely followed by Seraph, the other four ponies following in a bunch in the rear. The order was the same until the village was neared, when the rear ponies closed up. Passing the village Butcher drew level with Seraph and passed on to join Tamar, while Lyemun and Highland Heather also came to the front. At the entrance to the straight Lyemun gained considerably on the leaders, Highland Heather likewise pulling up. In the home run Butcher responded gamely to his jockey's persuasions, and passed the winning post an easy winner. Lyemun was second home, with Highland Heather a good third. Time.—1 min. 18-2/5 secs. The Pari Mutuel paid a dividend of \$11.60, while payments by the Cash sweeps were \$283.50 on the first pony; \$81 on the second and \$40.50 on the third.

WELTER RACE HALF A MILE.—For all China pony hacks or polo ponies. To be ridden by owners; pony to have been property of rider for at least one month prior to date of entry. Catch weights 12 stones. Winner at 1st Gymkhana 14 lbs. extra. Open to members of Jockey and/or Polo Clubs, also members of both Services. Entrance fee \$5. 1st prize presented; 2nd prize: \$25.00 (Entrance fees to go to winner)

Major H. Findlay's Billy, 182lb

14lb penalty (owner) 1

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Birthday, 168lb (owner) 2

Mr K. K's Droschkengaul, 168lb (owner) 3

Mr Elwes' Kirkdale, 169 lb, 1 lb overweight (owner) 0

Mr Blank's White Heather, 166lb, 1lb overweight (owner) 0

A good start saw Kirkdale in the lead with Birthday and Droschkengaul in second position.

Ascending the incline the latter pony took premier position and Billy usurped second place. At the village bend Billy was in the van, with Droschkengaul second and Birthday third. The order was the same entering the straight, Billy maintaining a long lead and pride of place until the finish. An excellent race for second place was witnessed between Birthday and Droschkengaul, the ponies racing neck and neck until within a few lengths of the Judges box. There Birthday nearly stumbled, but the excellent horsemanship of the Hon. Mr. Gresson averted what might have proved a serious accident, and although thrown out of his stride Birthday succeeded in gaining second place by a head. Time.—1 min. 3 sec.

The Pari Mutuel paid a dividend of \$10.80 while Cash Sweep payments were \$422.10, first pony; \$120.60 second; and \$60.30 third.

GYMKHANA STAKES.—Value \$100. Distance one mile. For all China ponies. Catch weights at 10st. 6lbs. Winners of an open race or open griffin race 5lbs. extra. Non-winning subscription griffins allowed, 5lbs. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5lbs. A cup called the Gymkhana Cup will be presented at the end of the season to be won by the pony scoring most marks in the races for the Gymkhana Stakes at the gymkhana meetings during the season, counting 4 points for a first; 2 for a second; and 1 for a third. The benefit of marks already scored to pass with the pony on a sale. Any winner of the race to carry 5lbs extra for each win in subsequent starts for the race, but in the event of a pony carrying the penalty not winning, 2lbs. to be deducted next time he starts, such 2lbs. to remain deducted until he wins again when he will carry the full penalties without deduction. Penalties accumulative up to 15lbs. Entrance fee \$5; 2nd Prize: \$25. (Half entrance fees to go to winner.)

Mr. Dryasdust's Triad, 146 lb

(Mr. Dupree) D.H.

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Garth, 151 lb

(Mr. Johnstone) D.H.

Mr. Dryasdust's Best Friend 146 lb

(Hon. Mr. May) 3

Mr. L. K. Leeson's Seafam, 146 lb

(Mr. Mackie) 0

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's H. H. 146 lb

(owner) 0

In this event the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson declared to win with Garth, and Mr. H. P. White declared to win with Triad.

The five starters in the Gymkhana Stakes were sent away to a splendid start. Garth taking the lead, Triad falling into second place and Best Friend following into third position. At the football stand Garth was still leading from Triad, who was held hard, while from this point the field gradually closed in. The order was much the same until the straight was neared, when Garth was first, Triad second and H. H. third. An excellent race home was witnessed between Garth and Triad, both ponies being hard-riden, and running almost neck and neck. The Judge's decision was a dead heat, but it appeared from the Press stand that Garth had won by a head, and this was the opinion of many in the stand on the other side of the Judge's box. Best Friend was a poor third. Time.—2 min 5-2 5 secs.

The Pari paid \$8.50 on Garth and \$5.10 on Triad, while payment by the Cash Sweeps were: \$315.90 on Garth and Triad, and \$7.20 on Best Friend.

TENT PEGGING IN SECTIONS OF THREE.—

Open to teams mounted on China ponies, composed of three men, representing any recognized unit or club in the Colony. Three small cups to be presented to winning team at each competition and at the conclusion of the season a trophy will be given to the team which scores the highest aggregate of points all meetings included. In competing for the small cups a competitor need not necessarily represent the same unit or club on each and every occasion, but if competing for the aggregate trophy he can only represent one unit or one club during the season, that is to say he must continue to compete for the unit or club first selected by him and for no other. To provide for sickness, absence from the Colony, or for improvement of a team, new members may from time

to time be introduced into a team but in order to win the aggregate trophy two at least of the members composing the winning team must have competed in not less than three competitions.

Points will be awarded as follows:—

3 for each carry, say per team	9 points
or 2 for a carry under 20 yards	...
or 1 for a touch	...
3 for speed	3
3 for style	3
	15

A dropped spear disqualifies the team for the run concerned.

Note—Style means the proper and workmanlike handling of spears and the synchronous working of a team. Points will be deducted from a team should the judge observe any member carrying his spear in a dangerous and unsportsmanlike manner.

The judges will deduct points if in their opinion a team be moving at too slow a pace.

(To avoid delay, each team must be ready to compete, when called upon to do so by the starter. Any team not ready will be disqualified.)

Buffs "A" team composed of Major Eaton, Captain Barker and Lieut Potter, 36 points. 1

Mounted Troop "A" team, composed of Lieut. Johnstone and Troopers Gedge and Dupree, 32 points ... 2

Royal Artillery "A" team composed of Colonel Chamier and Captains Finch and Twiss, 27 points ... 3

Cash Sweep payments were \$381.15 on the first; \$108.90 on the second; and \$54.45 on the third team.

ONE MILE FLAT RACE.—For subscription griffins of season 1908-09. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners of one race at 1909 meeting 7-lbs. extra; two or more races 12 lbs. extra. Winner at 1st gymkhana 7 lbs. extra. Winners at this meeting 7 lbs. extra. Penalties accumulative. Unplaced ponies at 1909 meeting allowed 2 lbs. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5 lbs. Entrance fee \$5.00. First prize: Presented, 2nd prize \$25.00, (Entrance fees to go to winner).

Mr Blank's Grey Back, 162 lb, 7 lb penalty (Mr Dupree) 1

Admiral Lambton's Kamranh, 157 lb, penalty 12lb, 5 lb allowed (Mr Mackie) 2

Mr Laworh's Theodolite (late Backstay) 162 lb penalty 7 lb allowed (Mr Klimanek) 3

Commodore H. Lyon's Swan, 157 lb penalty 12 lb, 5 lb allowed (owner) 0

Mr H. G. Moore's Lyemun, 150 lb, 5 lb allowed (owner) 0

Messrs D. L. M's Tamar, 159 lb ... (Mr Gegg) 0

Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Little Dot Rose, 156 lb, 7 lb penalty (owner) 0

The seven starters in this event were despatched together, Swan leading past the grandstand for the first time with Lyemun second and Tamar third. Swan increased his lead past Bowrington, Tamar drawing into second place. Up the incline Swan had a big lead, but the remainder of the field bunched near the rock and drew up with the leader. Kamranh was the first to emerge, while Tamar and Greyback ran in second place. Kamranh was still foremost when the straight was entered, Greyback being a good second. An exciting race home followed, Greyback challenging the Admiral's pony and winning by nearly a length, while Theodolite, who was the only pony left at the start came up the straight at a great pace and succeeded in snatching third place from Tamar. Time—2 min. 11 secs.

The dividend paid by the Pari Mutuel was \$9.30, while Cash Sweep payments were: 1st \$544.95; 2nd, 155.70; 3rd, \$77.85.

ONE AND A QUARTER MILE FLAT RACE.

Handicap—For all China ponies. Entrance fee \$5. First prize; presented, 2nd Prize: (Entrance fees to go to winner.)

Mr. Dryasdust's Best Friend, 158lb ... (Mr. Dupree) 1

Mr. J. Johnstone's Just-in-Time ... (late White Heather) 156lb (Owner) 2

Messrs. Leah and Moore's Sportsman ... (late Volga), 150lb (Mr. Moore) 3

Major W.A., Eaton's Game Chick, 147lb, 5lb overweight (Col. Bayard) 0

Mr. L. K. Leeson's Seafoam, 158lb...	(Mr. Gegg) 0
Mayor Findlay's Whitebait, 146lb, 6lb	overweight (Commodore Lyon) 0
Mr. F. B. Deacon's Dart, 157lb (owner)...	0
Mr. K.K.'s Highland Heather, 138 lb, 8lb...	overweight (Owner) 0
Hon. Mr. F. H. May's Astral, 161lb...	(Owner) 0
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's H.H. 151 lb...	(Owner) 0

The last race of the day brought forth the largest field. The ten starters were despatched in a bunch and continued in close order past the grandstand for the first time. Whitebait was then in the lead, with Dart second and Seafoam third. Astral headed the remainder of the field, who raced close on the leaders. Dart was in the van passing the football stand, with Seafoam second, but the latter drew into first place ascending the incline, and Astral passed Dart and challenged Seafoam at the village bend. Seafoam was the first to enter the straight, a packed field following. In the home run Best Friend, who was lying in a good position, was sent ahead at a great pace, and responding readily to the whip, took premier position, Astral and Seafoam being displaced by Just-in-time and Sportsman, Just-in-time made great efforts to overhaul the leader, but that pony showed a rare turn of speed power, and passed the winning post with plenty to spare, Just-in-time being second, and Sportsman a good third. Time—2 min. 42 secs.

The winner paid a dividend of \$23, while payments by the Cash Sweeps were \$570.15 on Best Friend; \$162.90 on Just-in-time; and \$81.45 on Sportsman.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The *Kitano Maru*, the sixth new N.Y.K. steamer built for the European service is now in port, and leaves to-morrow on her maiden trip to Europe. She is commanded by Captain Cope, and is the equal of her sister ships in every respect.

The telegram from * Tokyo correspondent a few days ago, announcing that the Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha had declared a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent for the half-year ended March 31st, is an effective contradiction of the rumours which have recently been appearing in the Japanese Press suggesting that the Company had lost heavily, and would be unable to pay the usual dividend. Mr. Kato, the Vice-President of the Company, in a recent interview said the Company did not escape the wave of depression which overtook all those engaged in the maritime carrying trade during last year. But fortunately the Directors had fully foreseen this state of affairs, and had made provision against it by large reductions in the staff, by abolishing several branches and sub-branches, by giving up services that did not pay, and by various other savings, especially in the matter of coal. By these various precautions a difference of about 1,700,000 yen resulted in the Company's outlays; and thus, though the income for the half-year under review fell off by some 2 million yen, the net issue was a profit of over one million, so that the Company will be able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent, without taking so much as a cash from the Reserve for the Equalization of dividends.

With reference to the Japanese maritime carrying trade in general, the *Shogyo Shimpō* ("Commercial News") observes that it cannot be safely alleged that the sun of prosperity has dawned again. There has certainly been an access of activity in shipping circles, but that is a normal feature at this time of year, and it is not improbable that when the carriage of beans and salt has come to an end, the old state of depression will recur. Our contemporary estimates that when ships undergoing repairs are deducted, the total tonnage of vessels laid up for lack of freight is about 25,000.

In anticipation of the development of Ningpo, a new steamship line is to be established between Shanghai and Ningpo. It will be purely a Chinese enterprise. The promoters have already secured one of the steamers which was built not long ago at Foochow for Messrs. Racine, Ackermann and Co., but which was thrown back

on the hands of the builders in consequence of the delay which took place in the completion of the vessel. Pontoons are being constructed in Shanghai for the new Company's wharf in Ningpo, and it is confidently expected that the enterprise will be a huge success financially. The capital invested is Tls. 1,500,000. Mr. Bell, formerly chief pilot of the s.s. *Lita*, recently went to Foochow to take command of the new steamer and take her to Shanghai.

For the second time the Philippine Assembly has killed the Commission Bill providing for the appointment of a Shipping Commissioner for the port of Manila. This is a very important measure that the Commission has been very anxious to get approved in order to put a stop to numerous complaints on the part of seamen of injustices they were exposed to. The Bill was also strongly supported by the shipping firms and its passage was requested by nearly every prominent shipping concern in the islands, the companies so desiring being the owners of some 239 vessels with a gross tonnage of approximately 45,580 tons. Among the provisions of the bill were the adjudication of wage disputes and the relief of distressed seamen and the settlement of their estates. It also covered cases of desertion and provided a penalty of a fine of not exceeding 200 Pesos or imprisonment of not exceeding one year for each offense.

In June, 1905, the Danish vessel *Princesse Marie* was sunk during the Russo-Japanese war, in the Sea of Japan, by the Russian cruiser *Terek*. It was contended by the owners of ship and cargo, before the Libau Prize Court, that the cargo was not contraband, and that the vessel should not have been sunk, and that those interested should be re-imbursed for their loss. The Court, however, found otherwise. The appeal has been heard recently before the Supreme Prize Court at St. Petersburg, which has reversed the decision of the Court at Libau, and remitted the case to that tribunal to settle the value to be paid to those interested. The Foreign Office has been informed of this decision by His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, and that the Court has declared that the sinking of the vessel was illegal, and the confiscation of the greater part of the cargo irregular, but that part of her cargo of railway material has been declared to be contraband. The *Princesse Marie* when destroyed was bound from Manchester to Chinese ports, and was a steamer of 5,416 tons, built in 1902. It is understood that the claims on behalf of the hull amounted to over £96,000, and that large amounts were also placed on cargo, part of which consisted of Manchester goods. As the claim on this vessel has been met after an interval of so many years, underwriters are inspired to believe that they may at last receive what they consider to be only justice in the case of the *Knight Commander*, which was sunk near Hongkong.

Captain J. Hands, of the N.Y.K. steamer *Miike-maru*, met with a rather serious accident recently at Kobe. It appears that Captain Hands was descending the companion ladder from the bridge to the lower deck when he suddenly slipped and fell heavily on to the lower deck. When picked up he was found to be bleeding profusely from a gash in the forehead. Later he was removed to hospital and, on examination, it was feared he had broken a rib.

THE JAPAN TEA TRADE.

ANOTHER ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN.

The Great Northern steamer *Minnesota*, the second tea steamer to run this season, which left Shimizu on the evening of the 18th instant for Yokohama, took on board 1,683 chests in addition to 3,000 cases of tea to be used as samples for advertising purposes in the United States.

A Taipeh dispatch states that the tea trade, the opening of which has been delayed on account of unsettled weather, has now begun to show great activity. So far the tea has been sent from Formosa to Kobe for export. The steamer *Minnesota* was expected to arrive at Kobe on the 19th instant to ship the tea, and it is stated will take not less than 500 tons.

ANHUI COPPER MINE TROUBLE.

REQUEST TO CANCEL SIR LISTER KAYE'S CONCESSION.

The *Peking Daily News* publishes the following translation of the joint petition, presented by the gentry of Anhui, concerning the copper-mining concession within the jurisdiction of the province of Anhui:

It is understood that an Agreement (under date of the 20th day of the 4th Moon of the 36th year of Kuanghsu) for the opening of copper-mines in the province of Anhui has been made and concluded in Peking between a British merchant known as Sir John Kaye (?) and the Board of Foreign Affairs.

Article IV. of the said Agreement states very clearly that before the scheme is being carried into operation, the party agrees to submit plans and specifications and provide necessary funds for the purchase of lands around the mining district, whereas Article V. of the same Agreement also points out very unmistakably that the Agreement is meant to be put into force within twelve months of its signature.

In view of the fact that the party has now violated these two provisions of the Agreement, due steps have since then been taken up by the Board of Foreign Affairs to adjust the matter.

We note, however, that recently a foreigner named (?) bearing pretentiously the name of a tourist, has secretly occupied the hill. He has lawlessly caused the grave-yards in its vicinity to be removed and the construction and widening of the roads are rapidly in progress. Furthermore, various machines, pertaining to the opening of the mines, are now ready on hand and worst than all, the party is apt to introduce all sorts of indecent amusements thereby attracting the natives to work in the mines.

The party, despite the repeated warnings of the Board of Foreign Affairs, has actually carried on the enterprise without any sanction from the Central Government and we, the gentry of Anhui, acting with a view to protecting China's Sovereign rights and the interests of our people, hereby jointly petition to Your Excellency, the Viceroy of Liangkang that the Board shall be duly notified and that some measure must, in some way, be taken to prevent further developments of such rash acts.

As we learnt that the said British merchant would be in Peking in the near future to negotiate regarding the matter, we have now arranged to send several representatives and delegates, who are now on the way to Peking, to present their side of the question for fair settlement of the case.

It is our sincere hope that the Board shall never yield to the wishes of the merchant or sanction the further renewal of the Agreement. We also request the Board of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce to cancel the passport issued to the tourist (?) so as to avoid further trouble in the case and that the concession be handed over to the gentry for management.

RESCUE IN THE HARBOUR.

Mr. H. S. Bevan, who made a heroic rescue during the memorable typhoon of 1906, effected another rescue in the waters of the colony last night. While in the water along with several members of a bathing party at Laichikok, he heard the cry "I'm drowning" come from a man who belonged to another party bathing in the same neighbourhood, the Y.M.C.A. party. At once he set out for the man in distress, and after swimming a distance of about fifty yards reached him as he was going down for the third time. By this time a boat had put off from the shore and into this the rescued man was placed in a more or less unconscious condition. It was learned that the man, Mr. Hinds, who was not able to swim, was learning with the assistance of a buoy. It was his practice to push the buoy a little distance from him and swim towards it. On this occasion apparently, the strong current had carried it further than he could swim, and when he found himself in difficulties Mr. Hinds called out for assistance, which luckily was speedily forthcoming in the person of Mr. Bevan. The other members of the Y.M.C.A. party were quite at hand but they did not hear his cry or realise his danger.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, on Monday, the 17th May 1909, at 4 p.m. Present:—Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. J. R. M. Smith (Vice-Chairman), Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. J. W. Bonnar, D. R. Law, H. A. Siebs, E. Shellim, H. E. Tomkins, J. W. Bandow and E. A. M. Williams (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 12th March, 1909, were confirmed.

CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATES OF DISCHARGE

TO CHINESE SEAMEN.

Reply from Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 25th March, 1909.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 18th instant, I am directed to state that the question of the granting of Continuous Certificates of Discharge to Chinese seamen will be allowed to drop.

I shall be glad if you will be so good as to return the enclosures in my letter of the 30th ultimo.*—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

*Enclosures since received.

The Secretary, The Chamber of Commerce.

LIGHT ON KAPSING ISLAND.

The following reply was received from the Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 29th March, 1909.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant in which you state that in the opinion of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce the institution of a Light on the Southern end of Kapsing Island is urgently required as a leading light across the Harbour to the Capsuimun.

In this connection I am to inform you that the placing of a beacon on the Bunsansiah Rock has been under the consideration of this Government and it is suggested that if a light were placed on such a beacon the purpose of furnishing a leading light for the Capsuimun would be better served than by placing a light in the position your Committee suggest; while at the same time what is a serious danger to navigation would be marked.

I am to add that the Government will be glad to learn the opinion of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on the above suggestion.—I am, &c.,

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, The Chamber of Commerce.

Memo. by Captain Lloyd.

The following Memorandum prepared by Capt. Lloyd was received:—

"The proposal of the Government to place a light on the Bunsansiah Rock as a guide through the Kap Shui Moon, and the opinion that it would furnish more protection to navigation than a light on the lower end of Kapsing Island is not likely to find endorsement amongst those who are practically affected by it.

While agreeing in the abstract that a light on Bunsansiah Rock would be a good thing, and welcomed as pointing out the position of a danger, it nevertheless finds no favour as a bad weather guide through the pass, and I do not think there is any keen desire for such, certainly not as a substitute for the one applied for. As a danger the rock exists, but I cannot call to mind any accident of late connected with it; the name "Bunsansiah" is presumably derived from some "Country-Wallah" in the old sailing ship days, striking it.

It seems difficult to explain the reason for going so far afield for the solution of the problem when it lies so near at hand.

Accurate and fine drawn bearings are of little account in our navigation, with varying courses, deviations for junks, &c., there is no time for taking or using such, keen eye-sight and good judgment are the essentials of our piloting, and the actual visual fixing of the objective is what is wanted, and not the laying down of a course which cannot be adhered to.

I may point out that the rock is not an obstacle in any special fairway, and a straight course from the buoys to the Pass (marked by the light) leads a long way clear of it.

It would also seem that financial considerations would favour the island light, as finding a foundation on a submerged rock is an expensive piece of work.

The common sense view of the matter would seem to be, that the matured opinion of the men who have had many years' experience and practice on the route, and who have discussed the subject and weighed the claims of this or the other alternative should be the determining factor in the decision as to the site of the light.

CHAS V. LLOYD,
Master, S.S. *Fatshan*.

Hongkong, 7th April, 1909.

The Sketch made by Capt. Lloyd was laid on the table.

Views of Capt. R. D. Thomas.

Canton, 16th April, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant enclosing a copy of the reply sent by the Government to the Chamber of Commerce with reference to establishing lights on Kapsing Island and Tong Ku. With regard to the Government proposal to place a light on the Bunsansiah Rock as a guide across the harbour to the Kap Shui Moon, and the opinion that it would furnish more protection than a light on Kapsing Island does not recommend itself to those most affected by it. Whilst agreeing that a light or beacon on the Bunsansiah Rock would be useful as pointing out the exact position of a danger, it finds no favour as a guide to the Pass during bad weather, as anyone keeping away to pick up such light or beacon on a dark or foggy day or night would be unnecessarily running his ship into danger, and after picking it up would still be a mile or more away from the Pass with a nasty ledge of rocks running out from Lantau Island almost in his course on which more than one vessel has struck during my time on the river. On the other hand, it is absolutely necessary to pick up Kapsing Island to insure setting a correct course through the Pass. At the present time when there is a thin fog or heavy rain one is unable to clearly distinguish the contour of the land. The Southern foreshore of Kapsing Island and the Eastern foreshore of Lantau Island in the neighbourhood of the Pass are so much alike that it is almost impossible to distinguish one from the other, especially so if the course across the harbour has been altered several times to clear junks when both time and position are somewhat vague.

Now with a small white house (in which to keep the light) built on the Southern fore-shore of Kapsing Island this difficulty would disappear, as the one shore would then have a distinctive mark and the erection of the light would then be quite as useful during the day as it would be at night—I remain, &c.,

R. D. THOMAS,
Master, S.S. *Heungshan*.

To E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,

Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Pilot Christie's views.

I endorse all Capt. Thomas' remarks re. light on Capping Island. After many years' experience as a pilot to Canton I have no hesitation in saying that the only safe guide through Capping-Mun Pass is a light on Kapsing Island. A light on Bunsansiah Rock intended as a guide through the Pass would only increase the existing danger.

T. H. CHRISTIE.

The following reply was sent to the Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
27th April, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th March, 1909 (No. 8824/1904) in reply to mine of the 18th idem having reference to the institution of a light on the Southern end of Kapsing Island.

My Committee having consulted the principal shipping Companies interested with regard to the counter proposition of the Government that a light on Bunsansiah Rock would better serve the purpose of furnishing a leading light for the Capsuimun, the opinion of the representative shipping Companies is now set forth in a

memorandum dated 9th April, 1909, prepared by Capt. Lloyd, Master of the S.S. *Fatshan*, which I now beg to enclose.

Capt. Lloyd's opinion is supported by a letter dated 16th April, 1909, from Capt. Thomas, Master, of the s.s. *Heungshan*, the first of the signatories to the letter previously forwarded to the Government by the Chamber.

Capt. Thomas' letter is endorsed by Mr. T. H. Christie, a pilot of many years' experience.

A copy of this letter and endorsement is also enclosed.

My Committee feel that the opinions expressed by so representative a selection of experienced navigators are entitled to the fullest consideration and would ask therefore that the Government be good enough to reconsider the question.

I should be glad if Capt. Lloyd's memorandum may be returned.—I have &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
3rd May, 1909.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo I am directed to inquire what description of light the Chamber recommends should be placed on the Southern end of Kapsing Island and in this connection I enclose a copy of a minute by the Harbour Master dated the 28th ultimo.

I return herewith Capt. Lloyd's memorandum.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

Minute by the Harbour Master.

Mr. Lloyd certainly makes a very good point in the fact that courses cannot be relied upon because of the frequent necessity of getting out of the way of junks. But the principal point upon which he lays stress is the similarity of the appearance of Kap Sing Island and of Lantau Island and he seems to be more anxious for some distinguishing mark, such as a hut, than for a light, which, as I have pointed out, would not be visible in thick weather. Such a distinguishing mark could easily and economically be made with a few rocks locally obtained and a bucket of whitewash.

But, if it is decided that a light is to be erected there, it would be well if the Chamber of Commerce were to say what description of light they advocate. The existing light on Mawan Island cost £51. 6. 2. including freight and insurance, but not including Public Works Department expenses for installation. If such a light were advocated, it would, in addition, involve the expenses of salary of light-keepers and of course, oil etc. An automatic (unattended) acetylene light, such as is extensively used in Canada with great success, would be of much greater power and would cost about \$700, but the cost of salaries would be avoided. This price would include an automatic occulting apparatus which makes the light distinctive and less costly to run.

BASIL TAYLOR,
28/4/09.

Memo by Capt. Lloyd on the preceding minute.

The light asked for on Kapsing Island is intended as a local lead and a powerful light is not necessary, as long as it is plainly visible in dark weather some 4 or 5 miles off, say, from the neighbouring point of Chunghue, it would suffice. A white light would probably best meet requirements on account of its superior penetrating power in thick weather, and if it could be made distinctive it would be better as there are generally many and various lights thereabouts.

On the score of finance, could not some automatic contrivance, such as the Gas Fairway Buoys (although it should be in some more reliable form, as the gas buoys show at times only a pin-point of red light) are equipped with, be used, dispensing with the necessity of constant attendance. Acetylene I have seen mentioned in such connection, and if it could be depended on would be suitable, as the light is peculiarly white.

I have before emphasized the advantage of a prominent structure at that place as a distinguishing mark or guide in a fog. As the proverb says:—"All cats are grey in the dark",

so in a shifting fog all rocks and trees lose their identity and are not recognizable—seen for a second or two and then covered up again, it is impossible to locate them with certainty, but a structure of lines and angles, seen if only for a moment, differing altogether from surrounding objects, speaks for itself, and I would suggest, if not a house, some form of beacon, either cone or obelisk shaped, with a pole and basket on top rather high up as fogs drift around in bunches and layers, and what may be visible at one level may not be so lower down or higher up. Such structure should be distinctively coloured. Striped black and red are, I think, the best seen colours in a fog.

CHAS. V. LLOYD,
Master, S. S. *Fatshan*.

Hongkong May, 6th 1909.

Letter from Capt. Clarke.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1909.

SIR,—In reply to your inquiries, the general opinion of our Commanders is that the most suitable situation for the light would be on the Southern end of Kapsing Island at an elevation of 3 feet above high water.

Light. Bright, occulting, or sixth order, visible for five miles on a clear night.

Structure.—Similar to a wan Island light-house. This would be considered a good distinctive mark in a fog during day time.

Fog-signal.—Bell, worked automatically as in use on the Iron Barrier near Whampoa. In fog or thick rain sound would be a safer warning than the off-chance of seeing the structure of the light tower. I recommend this suggestion to the consideration of your Committee—I am, &c.,

W. E. CLARKE.

Secretary, Hongkong Canton
and Macao Steamboat Co.

E. A. M. Williams, Esq.,

Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

It was decided to forward to the Government a copy of the letter received from Capt. W. E. Clarke containing the views of the Commanders of vessels of that Company. The Committee endorsed the views therein expressed.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF 1906.
Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 24th of March I am directed to point out to you that the particular question which was referred to in the despatch of the Secretary of State of the 21st January last, transmitted in my letter of the 26th of February was whether this Colony should adhere to the International Convention of 26th September, 1906, respecting the prohibition of the use of White Phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

It is on that question that this Government desires to obtain the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY.

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce,

Reply to Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

27th April, 1909.

SIR,—I now directed to reply to your letter (No. 3699/1907), of the 13th instant in which the Government desires the opinion of the Chamber as to whether or not this Colony should adhere to the International Convention of the 26th September 1906, respecting the prohibition of the use of White Phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

My Committee consider that, for precisely the same reasons as were advanced by the Representatives of the Imperial Government for the non-adherence of Great Britain on this point, this Colony should not adhere to the Convention.

As pointed out in the memorandum accompanying your letter, it has been proved that the evils traceable to the use of White Phosphorus in the manufacture of matches can be successfully suppressed by regulation.

There appears, therefore, no adequate justification for the adoption of measures calculated to hamper trade.

My Committee desire to thank His Excellency the Governor for referring this matter to them.—I have &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,

Colonial Secretary.

INDIAN LABOUR.

The following letter was received from the Government:—

15th March, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to enquire whether in the opinion of your Chamber any opening exists for the employment of Indian labour indentured or unindentured, in this Colony, and whether they consider that facilities with regard to passage and provisions of land should be given to encourage Indian immigration. I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, the Chamber of Commerce.

The following reply was forwarded to the Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
27th April, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to reply to your letter (No. 1725/1909) of the 15th March, 1909, requesting an expression of opinion from this Chamber as to whether any opening exists for the employment of Indian Labour in this Colony and whether facilities with regard to passage and provision of land should be given to encourage Indian immigration.

My Committee, having consulted several employers of labour, have been informed that there is no opening for Indian Labour indentured, or unindentured. In fact, there are Indians in the Colony at present who cannot find employment.

My Committee consider that market requirements are amply met, at present, by the supply of native labour. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

SEVENTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

Further letter from London Chamber:—

Oxford Court, Cannon Street.

London E.C. 4, 12th March, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to confirm my Circular letter No. 3, dated 3rd November, 1908.

I have still to hear from a large number of Chambers whether or not they intend to be represented at the Congress, though, owing to the length of time necessary for communication between London and Sydney, it is very desirable that not only the names of delegates, but resolutions for the Programme, should reach me much earlier than usual. It is as yet impossible to fix upon a definite date as being the last day upon which nominations and resolutions will be accepted, but so far at any rate as resolutions are concerned, it is obvious that several months must be allowed in order that Chambers may have the opportunity of considering the various subjects and instructing their delegates in regard to voting. I would therefore urge upon all Chambers the desirability of giving their immediate attention to those matters.

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith the first draft of the Official Programme, and shall be glad in due course to add any resolutions you may desire placed thereon in your name. A second draft will be circulated as soon as circumstances permit.

As you are no doubt aware, special arrangements have been made with the steamship companies trading to Australia, and I hand you herewith a booklet giving full particulars in this connection. You will notice that the reduced rates are available not only for delegates, but for members of their families travelling with them. Applications for these tickets must be accompanied, in each case, by a letter of identification, signed by the Secretary of the nominating Chamber, and I am sending you enclosed, forms for the purpose. I have forwarded copies of the booklet direct to all delegates nominated to date.

A draft programme of entertainments to be offered to delegates has been drawn by the Australian Committee, in accordance with which visits will be paid, subsequent to the Congress proper to the principal cities of the Commonwealth (excepting Perth, West Australia, where it is hoped delegates will be able to call on the outward or homeward journey).

This tour in Australia will probably extend over three weeks, and at its close delegates will be at liberty to make such other visits in the

Commonwealth and elsewhere as they may desire. Cordial invitations to delegates have been received from several cities in New Zealand, (Auckland, Canterbury and Dunedin), also from Launceston (Tasmania) and Honolulu (where the Vancouver-Sydney boat calls), and, though it has been found impossible to arrange collective visits to these places, it is hoped that many will be able individually to take advantage of the invitations during the course of their journey. The Organising Committee suggest that the visit to New Zealand will come more conveniently at the conclusion of the Australian tour.—Yours faithfully,

KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

Enclosures, Official Programme, Steamer Booklet, Blank letters of identification, were laid on the table.

UNITED STATES MONETARY COMMISSION.

Reply from Mr. Moreton Frewen:

March 12th, 1909.

Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR,—I have returned to Washington six weeks later than I had anticipated and so have only now received your letter of the 10th of December and the Report of the Chamber for which I am much obliged.

The evidence taken by the Commission for the next three months will be for the most part banking and currency, the Exchange evidence will occupy next Winter and Spring. I should not be surprised if there is material of importance from England also. The Chancellor of Exchequer has under consideration a suggestion to issue "crown notes" secured by silver (the proposal of the Royal Currency Commission of 1888) with which to pay the weekly old-age pensions. With the silver contents of a shilling worth hardly more than fourpence the profit on the operation is attractive. Here Congress is to be occupied with Tariff Revision, but the state of the Exchanges with Asia is much on the minds of the representative from the Pacific Coast States.

I think if any member of your Chamber should be available next Autumn or Winter, it might be well to communicate with Mr. T. H. Whitehead of the Bank of India, Australia and China, London. Mr. Whitehead will know where I am—Believe me, yours faithfully.

MORETON F. FREWEN.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE FINANCES OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

Reply to Government:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

7th April, 1909.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 11th February, 1909, (No. 5778/1904), requesting the observations of the Chamber regarding a scheme framed by the Board of Finance for the reorganising of the Finances of the Chinese Empire, I am directed to state that my Committee do not feel in a position to criticise exhaustively so large and far-reaching a scheme, but the centralisation of control, which seems to be the essence of the new Regulations, would be an important step forward and greatly assist in the birth of a purer administration.

Needless to say my Committee are entirely sympathetic towards any proposals calculated to confer benefit upon the people of China. I have &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

INTRODUCTION INTO THIS COLONY OF A GOVERNMENT NOTE ISSUE.

The following letter was received from the Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15th April, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you that H.E. the Governor has at the present time under consideration the question of the introduction in this Colony of a Government Note Issue on the lines of the system already adopted in the Straits Settlements and I wish to inquire what are the views of your Chamber on the subject.

This matter was last under consideration in 1899 when the Government decided to await the result of the experiment in the Straits Settlements, which appears to have been attended

by a certain measure of success.—I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY.
Colonial Secretary.

The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

It was decided to ask the Government for fuller details of the scheme, the following being among the more important points upon which the Committee wished to be informed:—

1. The general lines which it is proposed to adopt.
2. The arrangements for exchanging dollars into notes and vice versa.
 - (a) Whether the Government will have their own treasuries and staff for working the issue.
 - (b) If not what alternative system have they in view.
3. To what extent do the Government estimate the revenue of the Colony would benefit as against the present tax on Bank Notes and the data on which such estimate is based.

PROPOSED NEW FRENCH CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The following letter from the Government was received:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
30th April, 1909.

Sir,—I am directed to transmit for the consideration of your Committee the enclosed copy of a circular despatch from Lord Crewe dated the 16th day of last March and to inquire whether any commercial interests in this Colony are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed Tariff.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.
[Copy.]

16th March, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of the proposed New French Customs Tariff.

Should there be any commercial interests in the territory under your administration likely to be adversely affected by the proposed Tariff, I shall of course be glad to consider whether any representation should be made to the French Government on the particular subject.—I have &c.,

CREWE.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
6th May, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant (No. 2658/1909) covering a copy of the proposed New French Customs Tariff on which you request an expression of opinion from my Committee.—I have &c.,

(Sgd) E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

It was decided to reply that the Committee did not see that commercial interests in this Colony were likely to be adversely affected by the adoption of the Tariff.

CHINESE TEMPLE COLLAPSES.

A NUMBER OF WORSHIPPERS INJURED.

A serious collapse occurred at the Tai Wong Temple, Queen's Road East, on Thursday morning, when a number of worshippers were entombed. The beams supporting the roof of the building are said to have been in a bad condition, while the mortar is alleged to have been defective. The police were hastily summoned, and when they arrived it was reported to them by the excited crowd of onlookers that some people were buried under the debris. Assisted by the firemen, who were also early on the scene of the disaster, they set to work to release the sufferers, and guided by their cries soon extricated them. They proved to be two young women who had called at the temple at about ten o'clock to engage in devotional exercises. When released, they were found to have received various nasty cuts and bruises, and the condition of one of them is regarded as critical. Several others who were in the unstable building at the time of the collapse had narrow escapes, but none were seriously injured.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

May 28th.

THE VALUE OF KWANGTUNG LOTTERIES.

The Shan Pit and Po Piu lotteries contract in the Province of Kwangtung is about to expire. The present monopolist is So Sing Kue, who has held the monopoly for the last three years paying \$2,000,000 annually for the privilege.

Although certain Chinese merchants here have petitioned the Viceroy offering \$2,400,000 per annum for the next term of three years, So is endeavouring to renew his contract with the assistance of certain officials at the former contract price and it is believed that he will succeed. As it is an open secret that the Provincial coffers are almost empty, the statement that the Government are about to renew So's contract which is \$400,000 less than an offer submitted by syndicate of substantial merchants, has excited a considerable amount of surprise.

THE ASSASSINATION OF LAU TAOTAI.

I wired you this morning that Taotai Lau Sze Kee was brutally murdered in his house last night. It appears that Lau Taotai was delegated by H.E. Cheong Ming Kee, Governor of Kwangsi to proceed to the United States sometime ago to invite Chinese merchants to subscribe funds for the purpose of promoting various kinds of industries in the Province of Kwangsi. The expedition turned out to be a very successful one. Lau Taotai managing to induce the Chinese merchants in the United States to subscribe over two million dollars. He returned to China quite recently by one of the Empress steamers and was making a short stay in Canton before proceeding to Kwangsi. Last night at about 8 p.m. several men called at his residence in Wing On Li, and insisted upon an immediate personal interview with the deceased official, stating that they wished to discuss some very important commercial affairs. When asked who they were the visitors replied that they were members of the Wah Yik Company of Hongkong. Lau granted the interview and the men were asked to proceed to the reception hall where the Taotai was waiting for them. On seeing Lau Taotai the men all drew out their swords and rushed upon him cutting and stabbing him all over the body. After the men had left the house the family sent for doctors of the Red Cross Society and although everything was done by the doctors, Lau Taotai died at about 11 p.m. The matter has been reported to the Chief of Police and large rewards have been issued for the arrest of the murderers. So far, nobody knows the object of the dastardly deed.

May 31st.

SALE OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO'S INTERESTS IN CANTON.

During Viceroy Shum's régime he entered into an agreement with the China Light and Power Company with a view to taking over the Company's property and interests in Canton at any time after the expiration of 25 years of the contract. Both the Chinese Government and the merchants have been in favour of taking over the concern, "with the object of avoiding possible international trouble arising out of disputes between Chinese consumers and the foreign company." At the end of the last year the Chinese Government and the merchants started negotiations with the China Light and Power Company to purchase the concern. In the beginning it is stated the Company demanded the sum of \$1,500,000 but the Chinese Government haggled over the price for many months, wanting a substantial reduction and, in fact, about two months ago, negotiations almost fell through. Last week the Government re-opened negotiations in earnest with the Company, Taotai Chan Mong Chang representing the Government and Messrs. Poon Pui Yu and Li Young Fong representing the merchants, and on the 28th instant the price was settled at \$1,300,000 odd between the parties.

The completion of the sale will take place within a month from the 28th instant, when the whole amount of the purchase price in Hongkong currency will be paid over to the Company.

INSPECTION OF PARACEL ISLANDS.

Admiral Li Tsun and Taotai Li Chi Cheun left Canton last week on a gunboat to inspect the Paracels, Pratas and several other islands, which are said to contain rich deposits of guano. It is the intention of the Government to work the guano on one of these Islands and grant concessions of the others to the merchants. Mr. Fung Wa Chun, who is representing the merchants in this matter, has also sent a representative with the Admiral's party. In the meantime the merchants here are anxiously waiting for good tidings.

MURDER OF TAOTAI LAU.

Taotai Lau's son has telegraphed from Kwei Chan that he has received many telegrams of condolence both from officials and merchants. Viceroy Chang, on receipt of the cablegram from Lau's son, went personally to the deceased official's house to offer sympathy to the family. The telegram asks for information of the names of the murderers and the object of the dastardly deed, and also praying that redress may be given to the family of the deceased.

COXSWAIN CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER.

A death inquiry adjourned, and the principal witness placed in the dock on a charge of manslaughter, were the striking facts recorded at the Magistracy on May 3rd. An inquiry was being conducted by Mr. J. H. Kemp into the circumstances attending the death of a Chinese boatman who was drowned in the harbour on the 23rd May as the result of a steam launch colliding with the sampan. The jury was composed of Messrs. C. A. Carr, S. Boulton and P. H. J. G. Jonckheer.

The story was that the deceased Chan Kun, his brother and sister were in a boat off Reclamation Street, Yaumati, fishing, when a steam launch coming from Hongkong ran into them and capsized the boat. Chan Kun, who was at the bow rowing, was thrown into the water and was never seen again. The steam launch was continuing on its journey when the woman called out "save life," and it returned. A lifebuoy was thrown to the two in the water and they were taken on board and afterwards put ashore. The deceased, however, was never seen again. The evidence of Dr. Pearse was that the cause of death was drowning.

His Worship informed the jurors that in addition to the statements presented to him others had been laid before him, and he had been going through these during the inquiry. Had he seen them earlier, he would have brought a charge of manslaughter against the coxswain of the steam launch instead of holding an inquiry. What he proposed to do was to abandon the inquiry and charge the coxswain with manslaughter. He was sorry that he had brought the jurymen up, but he had not the information before him until now.

The inquiry was closed and the coxswain Ho Kau was charged with manslaughter. When asked to plead, he said that he did not know whether he caused the death of this man or not. Evidence was called and the case adjourned.

"CHINA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS."

The Board of Agriculture, Works and Commerce has ascertained that it is not uncommon for foreign Consuls in China to exercise their functions beyond the limits of the foreign settlements, and also foreign troops frequently go beyond the same limits.

The Board therefore has arranged with the Wai Wu-pu to introduce a set of regulations so that the spirit of the foreign treaties may be carried out to the very letter.

THE "DAILY MAIL" CUP.

The full results of the shooting on Empire Day for the Daily Mail Cup in the Far East were as follows:—

Kuala Lumpur	757
Singapore	757
Shanghai	727
Penang	719
Ipoh	715
Hongkong	660

Kuala Lumpur and Singapore shot again at the 600 yards range, the former team winning with a score of 251 against Singapore's 249.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

1st June, 1909.

DEAR SIR—It was reported at the monthly Committee Meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society to-day that some misconception has arisen with regard to the testimonial to the Rev. J. France from the members of that Society.

The testimonial was purely a private subscription from some of the members most interested in the work of the Society, in grateful recognition of Mr. France's help and advice for so many years.

The funds of the Society naturally were not touched.

Yours truly,

HELENA A. V. MAY.

President Hongkong Benevolent Society.

MACAO IN FINANCIAL STRAITS.

UNABLE TO MEET THE MUNICIPAL WAGES BILL.

Our Macao correspondent writes: "I am sorry to report that the Leal Senado finds itself in a position of inability to fully meet the wages bills of the Municipal employees. Municipal policemen and the Sanitary Department coolies have been paid in full, but the employees of the Senado Secretariat and of the Administrator's department have received only 50 per cent of their salaries for May. The school teachers have to wait. Other employees were paid only 25 per cent."

Commenting on this our correspondent remarks that in spite of the deplorable state of the municipal exchequer nothing has been done to reduce the number of employees. Presently it is anticipated that the Government will be obliged to confess itself practically in a state of insolvency, as the Leal Senado has done. Yet there is a considerable number of officials in the Colony who have been drawing good salaries, and apparently doing little or nothing for the money. Why not, asks our correspondent ship all these superfluous officials back to Lisbon?

BELGIAN CONSUL'S RESIDENCE ROBBED.

A daring robbery was reported to Police Headquarters on June 2, the victim being Mr. J. Bribosia, Consul for Belgium at Hongkong. Between 7 and 11.30 p.m. on the 1st instant, while Mr. and Mrs. Bribosia were absent from their residence at 106, Gough Hill Road, thieves gained an entrance and departed with \$100 in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank notes; one twenty-franc Belgium note, valued \$8; one plain gold chain with jade pendant, pear shaped, valued \$50; one plain gold bracelet valued \$50; one gold finger ring, valued \$15; two Japanese bracelets, one butterfly and one plain, valued \$12; one lady's gold watch, semi-Hunter, English Lever, valued \$150; one gold brooch set with small pearls and greenstone in centre, valued \$40. The total value of all the articles stolen is placed at \$425. Detectives are investigating the matter.

CHEUNG CHAU AS A HEALTH RESORT.

Visitors to Macao know Cheung Chau pretty well by sight, but few people have been ashore on the island and are therefore unaware of its potentialities as a health resort. This knowledge, however, has not escaped the missionary bodies in South China and a number of them have built houses on this little island, and there, when the heat of summer makes it impossible to work successfully in their various spheres of labour, they seek rest and recuperation on the breezy uplands of Cheung Chau. The missionaries who use these rest houses are mostly from Canton and the West River. At present eight houses have been completed.

THE PRATAS ISLAND QUESTION.

"FARTHER THAN EVER FROM BEING DISPOSED OF."

We read in the *Jiji Shimpō* what is evidently an authentic version of the Japanese Government's attitude towards the affair of Tungsha. Japan was not at all disposed from the outset to raise any question about the ownership of such a petty speck of territory in mid-ocean. She had no inclination to claim it for herself, and the idea of allowing such a trifling matter to disturb her relations with her neighbour never for a moment found favour in her eyes. She did not even ask that China should produce conclusive proof of ownership. Even in the case of a Power with the best ordered archives in the world, it might be difficult to marshal valid evidence as to the connexion between the home country and all its outlying portions. Tokyo was therefore prepared to recognise any claim advanced by China, provided that it possessed a semblance of validity. In response, however, to this liberal attitude, Japan asked that China should lay aside her suspicions with regard to the motive of Mr. Nishizawa's enterprise. Mr. Nishizawa and his party had exploited Pratas Island in the *bona fide* pursuit of commercial profit, and it was only fair that their undertaking should be recognised as legitimate, seeing that the island had lain uninhabited from the earliest times, that it was not under the effective jurisdiction of any State and that it had never been supposed to possess any resources worth developing. Mr. Nishizawa ought therefore to be allowed to continue his enterprise without interruption or should be reasonably compensated for surrendering it in favour of a Chinese company. Such was the moderate and fair attitude assumed by Japan from the outset. On the other hand, Viceroy Chang and the publicists of Canton had insisted that Nishizawa's enterprise was deliberately planned in the interests of aggression, and instead of agreeing that Nishizawa's position had a claim to consideration, they declared that he ought to be severely mulcted for lawless trespass. In these circumstances nothing remained for Japan except to revert to the question of ownership. If China will not accept the island with a small responsibility attached, she must prove her right to its possession. Therefore the question is farther than ever from being disposed of.—*Japan Mail*

HONGKONG INVESTORS IN PHILIPPINES.

According to the Baguio correspondent of the *Cablenews-American*, a Hongkong syndicate has purchased a tenth interest in the Headwaters Mining Company (Inc.), from Nels Peterson, for the sum of P40,000. Governor Whitmarsh represented the Hongkong capitalists in closing the deal. This is one of the most important mining deals put through here this year and is an indication of the interest being taken by capitalists of Hongkong in the Philippines mining industry.

The Headwaters Mining Company (Inc.) was recently organized (with a capital stock of P600,000 of which P350,000 is paid up. This company controlled a large group of mines in the most desirable section of the Baguio district and the promise for future development in the area is very bright. The president of the company is Mr. H. P. Whitmarsh, the first governor, and a pioneer merchant of the summer capital. He has always taken a lively interest in promotion work affecting the mining industry here and it is largely to his personal efforts that much capital has been attracted.

Nels Peterson, who is a large shareholder in the company and who sold the tenth interest in the Headquarters, is one of the first prospectors who invaded the Benguet country. He has been active in development work and his mill has made him a snug fortune. He is now worth several hundred thousand dollars, the result of his activity in the district and his unbounded faith in the future of mining there.

The strike and boycott movement against the Manila Electric Railway and Light Co. was revived by a proclamation issued by the Union Obrera on May 28th.

CHINA'S CUSTOMS TARIFF.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

The American Minister, Mr. Rockhill, has communicated to the Waiwupu the result of certain correspondence which has passed between the American and British governments bearing upon China's desire for an international conference to consider the question of increase of the customs duties upon imports.

It will be remembered that some time last December the Chinese government sent notes to all the Powers suggesting such a conference and outlining briefly China's need for friendly assistance in this direction. No steps seem to have been taken by any of the Powers until recently. Shortly after Mr. Taft became President of the United States, this matter was brought to his attention with the result that the American government took the initiative to the extent of communicating on the subject with the other Powers, or some of them. It is understood that the American government expressed its friendly sympathy for China's desires for a conference of the Powers to consider the customs question and such other questions as might properly be considered at such a conference.

Because of Great Britain's very large interest in commerce with China, the matter was first taken up with the British government. The reply of the British government, as communicated by the American minister to the Chinese authorities, is in effect that so long as China has failed to abolish likin barriers and to bring about reform of the currency and other reforms provided in the Mackay treaty, Great Britain does not consider that China has a right to ask for tariff increase.

The reforms especially referred to in addition to doing away with likin, are understood to be curtailing the minting of copper money by the provincial authorities, stopping the issue of too many bank notes, and other currency reforms.

China's position towards these and other reforms is understood to be as follows:

China recognises the need for all these reforms, but maintains that the evils of which the foreign governments complain are, to a large extent at least, due to conditions produced by the lack of sufficient income to the central government from customs. China refers to the present customs duties as being wholly inadequate. It is claimed that no other government has as low duties upon imports as those to which China is restricted by treaties with foreign governments. Therefore, before China can bring about these reforms, she must have the definite assurance of the Powers that they will agree to customs increase to a reasonable extent.

China will agree to totally abolish likin as soon as she has entered upon a definite agreement with the Powers for customs increase.

The too great minting of copper and other coins will be restricted as soon as the central government is able to reimburse the provinces for the income now received by the provinces from this source, which will be when there is an increase in the customs receipts.

With regard to issue of bank notes, the position of the Chinese Government is this: The central government is responsible for all notes issued by the government banks. The provincial governments are responsible for the notes issued by banks operating under the sanction and control of the provincial authorities. As for the issues of private banks, the Chinese government would advise foreign merchants not to accept these. As soon as China is able to adopt and put into operation proper banking laws, private banks will be compelled to conform to those laws.

The central government is anxious to carry out all the reforms promised in its treaties but it maintains it can make no substantial progress along these lines until it is permitted a reasonable increase in its customs duties, as only in this way can it secure sufficient income to carry these reforms into effect. The Chinese government makes it clear that there is no desire for such high rates as might in any degree restrict foreign trade, as its great need is revenue.—*Peking Daily News*.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARKHAM.

We published a few days ago a paragraph announcing the death of Captain Markham, one of the few survivors of the *Bokhara* disaster, but old residents will be interested in the following reminiscences of that tragic event contained in the following letter dated May 10th, from a London correspondent:—

Saturday's newspapers contain a notice of the death on the 6th instant, after a very short illness, of Captain Frank D. Markham, late King's Shropshire Light Infantry, at 10 Queen Street, Mayfair. I do not know the cause of Captain Markham's death, but there can be no doubt that the terrible experience he underwent some seventeen years ago undermined the constitution of this promising young officer and helped to bring about his death at the early age of forty years. The demise of Captain Markham leaves Dr. J. A. Lawson the sole survivor of the passengers in the ill-fated *Bokhara* wrecked off the Pescadores in October, 1892, and of the team of Hongkong interport cricketers returning from Shanghai. Dr. Lawson suffered so seriously from the effects of exposure on that occasion that he had to retire from the Civil Service, and he is now located at Forfar, in Scotland.

Comparatively few residents of Hongkong and Shanghai to-day remember Markham, though Lawson's personality will not readily be forgotten. But I shall never forget the interview I had with the two survivors upon the deck of the cruiser *Porpoise*, which brought them down from Amoy. Lawson, badly wounded on the forehead by being dashed against the bridge of the doomed vessel as she was engulfed by a heavy sea, told the story of his grim experience with a considerable amount of characteristic vivacity, and mentioned how Markham, terribly unnerved, had had the greatest difficulty in recovering from the effects of the disaster. Markham had certainly received a serious shock. Attired in a flannel suit lent to him by an officer of the cruiser, he stood in the centre of a little group of civilians and service men, and in a slow voice, in subdued tones, gave a narrative of his personal experiences on that awful night. With the crowd of affrighted passengers he had been standing in the companion way when the *Bokhara* went down. He had no clear idea of how he got into the water, but as he could not swim and had no lifebelt, like Lawson, he gave himself up for lost. Luckily for him, he was washed up on a reef, where he lay bruised and battered, in no clothing but the remnant of his pyjamas, until the morning light revealed the six members of the crew whom he thought to be the sole survivors of the white men on board. It was only when they struggled over the sand dunes, bearing the wounded chief officers, that they discovered another survivor in Lawson, who had succeeded in getting shelter in a disused hut near the shore.

THE GERMAN TRAVELLERS MURDERED IN YUNNAN.

A Rangoon paper of the 7th ult. says that the two Germans who are reported to have been murdered in Yunnan are Doctor Brunhaber, a well-known traveller, and Herr Schmitz. They arrived at Rangoon from Madras on the 20th of October last, and went from there to Bhamo. A representative of the *Rangoon Gazette* interviewed persons just returned from Bhamo who met Dr. Brunhaber and his companion, and travelled with them to Tengyueh. It was learned that the intention of the Germans was to proceed eastward then, northward in an attempt to discover the source of the Mekong. The two travellers left Tengyueh in the middle of December with a caravan of 25 mules, a Madrasi cook, and a Chinese interpreter, who was formerly a steward on one of the German mail boats. At Tengyueh they occupied tents in the compound of the Commissioner of Customs. It is thought the explorers lost their lives, as did Mr. Brooke recently, amongst the Lolos. They carried a consignment of small gramophones as presents to the natives. Dr. Brunhaber had written a work on Algiers, Herr Schmitz was making his first journey. When last seen by the parties interviewed both travellers were in the best of health and hopeful of accomplishing their task.

LAWN TENNIS.

HONGKONG V. KOWLOON.

The annual match between Hongkong and Kowloon after many delays was played off on the 31st ult. on the King's Park in ideal tennis weather. There was a good attendance to witness the play and it is satisfactory to note that the spectators were not disappointed. The exhibition of tennis was of a very high standard. On this occasion Kowloon showed up better than on previous meetings, the score being 106 games for Hongkong, and 86 for Kowloon.

Hongkong was represented by Pinckney and Carr, Harris and Aubrey, King and Hutcheson, and Sutherland and Pemberton, while the following did duty for Kowloon: Klimanek and Lapsley, Edwards and Fowler, Clelland and Weaser, and Mead and Green. The umpires were Messrs. Fittock, MacKenzie, Menagh and Pelling.

The light was all that could be desired but the wind proved a disconcerting factor. It robbed volleying of its value, and as it came over the sheets it added uncertainties to the course of the balls. Victory went to the pairs who played the net game, the difficulties mentioned operating against those who attempted to keep the balls high. The courts, it should be added were in splendid condition.

Carr and Pinckney carried off the honours for the visitors. Carr played perfect tennis but his companion made several mistakes. Carr, on the other hand, never missed a shot. Harris and Aubrey also played well for Hongkong. Klimanek and Lapsley, with three wins to their credit, did most for Kowloon, while Fowler and Edwards, after losing the first two matches, steadied themselves and played finely in the next two. Mead and Green also did well, winning from Sutherland and Pemberton and drawing with Hutcheson and King. The scores are as under:

Pinckney and Carr beat Fowler and Edwards 10/2, Klimanek and Lapsley 7/5, Clelland and Weaser 10/2 and Green and Mead 9/3.

Harris and Aubrey beat Edwards and Fowler 8/4, Clelland and Weaser 8/4, lost to Mead and Green 4/8, lost to Klimanek and Lapsley 5/7.

King and Hutcheson lost to Fowler and Edwards 5/7, Klimanek and Lapsley 3/9, drew with Mead and Green 6/6, beat Clelland and Weaser 9/3.

Sutherland and Pemberton lost to Fowler and Edwards 4/8, Mead and Green 5/7, Klimanek and Lapsley 3/9, beat Clelland and Weaser 7/5.

INTERPORT LAWN TENNIS.

HONGKONG GARRISON BEAT S.C.C.

The following account of the Interport Lawn Tennis (Doubles) match between representatives of the Hongkong Garrison and the Shanghai Cricket Club is taken from the *Shanghai Mercury*:—

Captain Brierley and Mr. T. A. White, (Hongkong) first played Messrs. R. J. Saunders and H. Middleton (Shanghai), and the sets proved rather one-sided, the visitors gaining an easy victory by six games to one. All round the Hongkong representatives showed much superior play to their opponents, and White was exceptionally brilliant at the net, being frequently applauded for his cleverness. The first three games of the initial set went in favour of Hongkong, then Middleton secured Shanghai's first game, and Brierley losing his service brought the score to 3-2 in favour of the visitors. Shanghai only won another game and were accordingly defeated by six games to three. In the second set the visitors won six out of the seven games played.

Capt. Beasley and Mr. E. G. J. Byrne (Hongkong) were next opposed to Messrs. G. M. Wheelock and R. I. Fearon (Shanghai), and though the visitors lost the first set by four games against six they succeeded in carrying off the next two sets and so the second rubber. Beasley did not score a single point in the first game, and a second love-game was won by Wheelock who played consistently throughout. In the second set Byrne won his service; then the Shanghai players scored two games, both deuce games, and after this nothing could touch the visitors who carried off

the set by six games to two, Byrne securing the first love-game of the set. The Hongkong players started well in the final contest, winning three games right off the reel. Wheelock's serve went in favour of Shanghai and then the visitors added two more games, bringing the score to 5-1. After one deuce Beasley lost the next game, and Wheelock added a third after three deuces. Byrne was the next to serve and he pulled off the game, the other side scoring 30.

Capt. Beasley and Mr. Byrne then changed over and, playing Middleton and Saunders, gave them a worse beating than the latter had received at the hands of Brierley and White, the scores being 6-love; 6-2. Messrs. Brierley and White played Wheelock and Fearon in the final rubber. The first set went in favour of the visitors by seven games to five. Shanghai secured an easy win in the second set by six games to one, but the Hongkong representatives regained their form in the concluding game which they carried off by six games to four.

Details of the results are as follow:—

Capt. Brierley and T. A. White (Hongkong) beat Messrs. H. Middleton and R. J. Saunders (Shanghai) 6-3, 6-1 (twelve games to four).

Capt. Beasley and Mr. E. G. J. Byrne (Hongkong) beat Messrs. G. M. Wheelock and R. I. Fearon (Shanghai) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 (Sixteen games to eleven).

Capt. Beasley and Mr. Byrne (Hongkong) beat Messrs. Saunders and Middleton (Shanghai) 6-0, 6-2 (twelve games to two).

Capt. Brierley and Mr. T. A. White (Hongkong) beat Messrs. Wheelock and Fearon (Shanghai) 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 (fourteen games against fifteen).

THE FILIPINO DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENCE.

The Manila *Cablenews* of the 21st inst reports:—The second session of the legislature closed at nearly one o'clock this morning with a lengthy speech of the Speaker in which he demanded the immediate independence of the Philippine islands, declaring, as he did at the close of the previous session, that the country was ready for such independence.

The last act of the Assembly was to approve a motion that Manuel Quezon, who has been elected as the representative of the Assembly at Washington, should go armed with the words of the Speaker: "I declare before God and in the face of the whole world that the Filipino people are capable of self government and ready for their independence and that in view of the excellent showing the Assembly has made and the hearty congratulations of the Acting Governor General and his eulogies, that the Congress of the United States be called upon to grant the immediate independence of the Philippines."

Delegate Laguda, in the name of the Progresistas, objected that time was not ripe for independence and asked that in the vote that was to be taken the Progresista minority be excused from voting. They were excused and the vote resulted in 49 being in favour, eight abstained and three were absent.

WEDDING AT THE CATHEDRAL.

A pretty wedding took place at the Cathedral on Saturday when Captain F. Harris, the harbourmaster at Canton, was married to Miss Deans, of Riccarton, New Zealand. The bride, who was accompanied by her mother and brother, arrived in the colony on Thursday. The Rev. F. T. Johnson conducted the service, and Mr. W. W. G. Ross acted as best man. A reception was held afterwards at the Hongkong Hotel and was attended by many of the leading residents of the colony.

The Macao Government is apparently not enamoured of the experiment of managing the opium business of the colony, and is again trying to let the farm. With the American and the Australian markets now closed, Macao's opium business has ceased to be of any considerable importance.

COMPANY REPORT.

THE "STAR" FERRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the eleventh ordinary annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, is as follows:—

The Directors have the pleasure to submit to shareholders their report, with a statement of accounts, for the year ending 30th April, 1909.

ACCOUNTS.

The nett earnings of the boats, after paying all working expenses and providing for a loss of \$9,346.57 on subsidiary coins, amounted to \$38,563.58 as against \$35,544.38 the previous year.

The amount at credit of Profit and Loss account, after paying for repairs and placing \$7,350.00 to credit of Insurance fund, is \$28,121.43 which, with the approval of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Dividend of 10 per cent	\$15,000.00
Write off boats	10,000.00
Carry forward to new account	3,121.43
	\$28,121.43

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson retires, but offers himself for re-election. The Hon. Mr. H. Keswick and Mr. G. Friesland resigned on leaving the colony and the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. E. Shellim were invited in their stead. These appointments require confirmation.

AUDITOR.

Mr. W. H. Potts has audited the accounts now presented and offers himself for re-election.

C. P. Chater,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1909.

BALANCE SHEET, 30TH APRIL, 1909.

LIABILITIES.

To Capital. — 10,000 shares @ \$10 each fully paid up	\$100,000.00
To 10,000 shares @ \$10 each \$5 paid up	50,000.00
	\$150,000.00
To reserve fund	65,000.00
To insurance fund	48,980.89
To unclaimed dividends	839.00
To account payable	2,169.08
To balance of Profit and Loss	28,121.43
	\$295,110.40

ASSETS.

By value of boats, as per last account	\$147,000.00
By accounts receivable	2,314.49
By Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	42,956.91
By Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation No. 2 account	839.00
By Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company Limited, loan	102,000.00
	\$295,110.40

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To ordinary repairs and alterations	\$9,957.25
To insurance fund	7,350.00
To directors and auditor's fees	1,000.00
To balance	28,121.43
	\$46,528.63

By balance from last account	\$98.52
By nett earnings of boats	38,563.58
By interest	7,583.58
By scrip fees	43.00
By unclaimed dividends forfeited	240.00
	\$46,528.68

INSURANCE FUND.

To repairs to <i>Morning Star</i> damaged in July typhoon	\$5,590.48
To balance forwarded	48,980.89
	\$54,571.37

By balance from last account	\$47,221.37
By profit and loss account	7,350.00
	\$54,571.37

COMPANY MEETINGS.

PEAK TRAMWAY COMPANY, LTD.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Peak Tramway Company was held on Saturday at the offices of the general managers, Alexandra Buildings. Mr. J. A. Jupp presided and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Mr. C. S. Gubbay (directors), Messrs. A. H. Ough, D. E. Clark C. B. Buyers, G. Rapp and J. M. Wong.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, follow the customary course and take them as read. The accounts call for little comment; the result being very similar to those we had the pleasure of presenting to you last year. You will note that directors' fees and general managers' remuneration appear on the debit side of the Profit and Loss Account for the year instead of being afterwards deducted in the report as has been the case in previous years. The change is not an immaterial one but was made at the suggestion of the auditors. I may also mention that the fact of our having made an allowance for unexpired season tickets for the first time last year makes the results of the year now before you appear some \$2,386.30 better in comparison with the figures then shown than would otherwise have been the case. Your directors and general managers feel they are justified in again recommending a dividend of 8 per cent on the paid-up capital, as work on the new line has not yet been commenced and they trust this meets with the approval of the shareholders. At the same time they think it wise to pass a further sum of \$15,000.00 to the credit of Reserve Fund which will then stand at \$20,000.00. I am still not in a position to give you any definite information as to when work on the new line will be commenced. Negotiations were carried on with the Government throughout the year on the basis of a line, a prominent feature of which was a steel trestle bridge over the Glenealy Ravine abreast of and about 70 yards distant from the Roman Catholic Cathedral. On the Bill coming before the Council, this route was petitioned against by the Roman Catholic Bishop on behalf of worshippers at the Cathedral, as it was alleged that the noise of the cars passing over the trestles would seriously disturb the services carried on there and eventually for this and other reasons, the Government informed us on 4th February last that this route was not acceptable and had to be abandoned. At the same time we were given the option of either adopting the route as proposed by the original promoter, which had previously been vetoed by the Government, or practically the same route but including a tunnel of 150 feet in length through the Public Gardens. The tunnel scheme was objected to from the first by your directors owing to the enormous outlay involved, so that there only remained to be considered the original route. The greater part of the cost of surveying, drawing up plans, detail drawings and specifications for the route vetoed by the Government has been charged up to "Permanent Way and Concession New Line," but there still remains \$3,000.00 to be paid on this account. The adoption of a new route will mean a further large outlay for surveying work, plans and specifications, as the lower half of the line will traverse entirely new ground. The tenders were received for the Trestle route only last month and were very much in excess of the original estimates. The engineers inform us that the route now proposed to be adopted will be considerably cheaper and your Directors are now in communication with them and in negotiation with the Government on this question. Without being able to commit myself to any definite pronouncement of policy I may say it does not appear probable at present that the original scheme for a car to carry 70 passengers will be adopted in any case, owing to its excessive cost but that some less ambitious plan will have to be considered.

There being no questions, the report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. OUGH.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the re-election of Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Mr. G. C. Moxon, and Mr. C. S. Gubbay as directors.

Mr. WONG seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. BUYERS moved and Mr. CLARK seconded that Messrs W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe be re-elected auditors. This was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants can be had on application at the office. Thank you for your attendance.

A. S. WATSON & CO. LTD.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on May 29th at the offices of the general managers, Alexandra Buildings. Mr. J. A. Jupp, presided and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. H. P. White (consulting committee), Messrs. J. A. Tarran (acting secretary) A. H. Ough, T. F. Hough, L. Guy, D. E. Clark, J. Machado.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report and statement of account having been in your hands for some days I will with your permission follow the usual course and take them as read. Your general managers and consultation committee regret that the results before you are not of a more favourable character. The severe depression, from which trade of almost every description in the Far East has been suffering for some time, was still in evidence during the past year and more particularly in Shanghai and the Northern branches generally. The Bund branch of Mactavish and Lehmann showed a great falling off in returns, which was accentuated in a large measure by the pulling down of the English Club next door and the removal of the members elsewhere. This falling off was so serious that it was decided to close the branch as far as retail business is concerned, and this will come into effect on the 31st inst. Unfortunately the lease of the premises has still three years to run. Every effort has been and is being made to sublet the premises; but so far without success. Care is being taken to ensure that, as far as possible, the business done at this branch will not be lost but will be transferred to the Hongkew branch of Mactavish and Lehmann or to the Shanghai Pharmacy, and is hoped that the bulk of the business will be divided between these two. The Tientsin branch was moved into new and much improved premises in August last. The business done latterly shows considerable expansion, and it is anticipated that in the near future the increased returns will more than counterbalance the larger rent paid. The gross returns for the whole business were larger than in the preceding year; but not sufficiently so to make up for the heavy fall in sterling exchange which was responsible for decreased profits, as on a very considerable proportion of the business done it is impossible to raise prices at all when exchange falls, owing to the keen competition now existing. The loss on subsidiary coins reached the large total of \$17,003.79. The accounts themselves call for little comment. Marine Lot 293 shows an increase of \$25,620.00 during the year which represents the amount spent on reclamation during the period. The work was completed in December last; but there will be some small additions to this account during the present year. Liabilities in the East are \$51,810.98 more, and in London \$26,944.16 less. Taken together they are \$24,866.82 more than in the previous year. Stocks in Trade and Dead Stocks, are both somewhat smaller; but on the other hands the outstanding and good debts due are \$31,085.48 larger. The present figure is however nearer the normal amount than last year's "outstandings," which were exceptionally low owing to restricted business. The accounts collected in the first quarter of this year are considerably larger than for the same period in 1908. The Foochow branch was finally closed in May last and the business formerly done there by us is now being carried on by an agent.

There were no questions, and the report was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. T. F. HOUGH.

Mr. MACHADO proposed and Mr. OUGH seconded that Mr. F. Maitland and Mr. Hutton Potts be reappointed auditors. This was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That, gentlemen, concludes the business of the meeting. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on application.

WATKINS' LIMITED.

The tenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in Watkin's Ltd. was held at the company's office, Watkins Dispensary, at noon on May 29th. Mr. G. A. Watkins presided, and there were also present Messrs. Chan A Fook (general manager), A. R. Lowe, Chow Hon Wah and Tsang Yuet Kai.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—Taking it for granted you do not desire me to read through the report and balance sheet for 1908 now before the meeting, I will at once proceed to deal with matters relative to the business of the past year. As you all know 1908 saw the universal depression in trade, which has been so severely felt in Hongkong and parts of the Far East, reach its climax. It was a year of intense depression and was accompanied with a falling exchange and necessitated the utmost care and caution on the part of your general managers in their dealings, both as buyers of stocks and as sellers of goods. Every possible economy consistent with proper efficiency was effected, resulting in a profit. In view of the severe depression to which I have just referred and the effects of which we could not hope to escape, I trust you will not be reluctant to admit is not only satisfactory, but gives promise of much better returns in the current year, since the storm-clouds which have for so long darkened the commercial horizon are now, happily, passing away. In view of the fact that the net profit is slightly below \$12,000.00, and after taking into consideration the advisability in the interest of the shareholders of consolidating the business as rapidly as possible, we decided to follow the practice of the last four years and forego the kudos usually accruing to the management when a dividend is declared.

Better far, in our opinion, to go on strengthening the edifice whilst placing ourselves in a position to supply our requirements from time to time without having to incur any extra expense. That, as you will have gathered from the report, is what we have done, and the consequence is that we have entered upon the new year, with its improved prospects, with every reason to hope that when our next meeting is held we shall have the pleasure to propose the declaration of a dividend and in addition be able to place a substantial sum to credit of Profit and Loss account. Having, as was announced last year, paid off all outstanding and building accounts and having made due provision to enable us to replenish our stocks at the most advantageous rates and for the acquisition of a launch for our harbour work, and being now on the eve of an era of renewed prosperity in the East; I look forward with perfect equanimity to the future, confident that the wisdom of our policy in conserving the financial standing of the Company will before long be fully justified by the results. With these remarks I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts now before the meeting, but shall be pleased before putting it to the vote to answer any questions shareholders may ask.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. CHOW HON WAH seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business before the meeting, Gentlemen, I thank you for your attendance. We must hope for better times next year.

THE STAR FERRY CO., LTD.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Star Ferry Company, Limited was held at Sir Paul Chater's office, Victoria Buildings, on the 2nd inst. Sir Paul Chater presided and there were also present Mr. E. Shellim (director), Hon. Mr. E.

Osborne (secretary), Messrs T. F. Hough, W. H. Potts, J. W. Bandow, H. A. Siebs, Ho Fook and Wong Kam Fook.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission I propose as usual to take the report and accounts as read. As foreshadowed in my remarks to you at our last annual meeting; the year's working shows an improvement on its predecessor; and the reconstruction of the last of the Kowloon wharves which were destroyed in 1906, being nearly completed, we may, I think, look forward to further improvement during the year just commenced. The loss on subsidiary coins, amounting to \$9,246, was principally on copper cents, the depreciation of which is at present 18 per cent. In the typhoon of July last, we were not quite so fortunate as in previous years in regard to the boats; one of them, the *Morning Star*, having been blown from Stonecutters on to the rocks at Lai Chi Kok. The cost of repairs, you will perceive, has been debited to the Insurance Fund. The item of \$30,000 which has appeared in previous accounts under the heading "Hongkong Hotel debentures" has been liquidated and will, together with the \$102,000 owing by the Wharf Co., be re-invested on mortgage as soon as a favourable opportunity occurs. I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may desire to put.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. HOUGH seconded and the motion was carried.

The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson was elected to the directorate on the motion of Mr. BANDOW seconded by Mr. SIEBS.

Mr. HO FOOK proposed the confirmation of the election of the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. E. Shellim as directors.

Mr. WONG KAM FOOK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. W. H. Potts was re-elected auditor on the motion of Mr. SIEBS, seconded by Mr. HOUGH.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on application.

SHANGHAI COMPANIES.

WEEKS AND COMPANY, LD.

The Report of the Directors and Statement of Accounts for the twelve months ended February 28, 1909, states:—The net profit for the 12 months, including \$5,731.47 brought forward from last account, paying all charges, Directors' and Auditors' fees, making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation on fixtures and furniture, amounts of \$62,967.91. From this, an interim dividend amounting to \$16,000.00 was paid on December 14, 1908, leaving \$46,967.91 now to be dealt with, and the Directors recommend this should be disposed of as follows: To payment of a final dividend of 6 per cent per annum making 10 per cent for the year) \$24,000.00; place to Reserve (which will bring this fund to \$40,000.00) \$14,452.22; carry forward to New Account \$8,515.69.

HOTEL DES COLONIES CO., LD.

The Report of this Company for the year ended March 31st shows a debit of \$5,907.08, and in view of this the Directors waived their fees for the year. At the meeting of shareholders the Chairman (Mr. L. R. Burkhardt) said:—“Our loss was brought about chiefly by the falling off in the number of French, and other Continental tourists, during the year, coupled with the growing popularity of the Trans-Siberian route and the consequent absence of travellers, who used to call at Shanghai on their way home. This is shown by the receipts under the heading of 'Board and Lodging' account which were \$13,991.10 less than the year before. In other sources of income, there has been also a substantial decrease in receipts, but, by careful management and economy the loss of revenue has been met wherever practicable by a reduction in current expenses, and we have thus been able to avoid what otherwise would have resulted in a serious loss.”—It was decided that the debit balance should

be placed against the Sinking Fund, and the amount erased from the balance-sheet.

SHANGHAI LIFE INSURANCE CO.

At the fourth annual meeting of this Company the Chairman (Mr. Chew Kin-sun) reported that the Company had completed its deposit at Hongkong, which provided for a special fund to be deposited with the treasurer of the Hongkong Government, for the security of policy holders. He called attention to the fact that the assets of the Company now amounted to Shanghai Taels 543,596.43, being an increase over the previous year of about 58 per cent., while the insurance fund which now amounted to Shanghai Taels 440,096.93 was an increase of over 80 per cent. of the previous year. The premiums earned amounted to Shanghai Taels 403,716.65 which also showed an increase over the previous year. Interest and exchange earnings amounted to Shanghai Taels 36,063.79 being an increase over the preceding year of almost 200 per cent. Payment to policy holders for death claims and surrender values for the year amounted to Taels 68,750. He felt certain that the shareholders would consider these figures as good evidence of the Company's progress and prosperity. The new business offered during the year amounted to Shanghai Taels 1,874,177 of which Shanghai Taels 1,737,527 had been accepted, and Shanghai Taels 136,650 postponed or declined. These figures were in accordance with the decision of the directors, who after the last annual meeting decided to limit the amount of new business to be accepted by the Company during the past year. Business in force amounted to Shanghai Taels 4,966,917. Mr. Wu Che-on retired as director by rotation. It was proposed that his place on the Board be filled by Mr. A. J. Israel. This motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Hugo Gyzeman was re-elected auditor for the coming year.

KIANG-PEI-TING COAL AND IRON MINING COMPANY, LTD.

At the fourth ordinary general meeting of the Kiangpei Ting Coal and Iron Mining Company, Ltd., Mr. E. C. Pearce (Chairman) expressed the sense of the shareholders at the great loss the company had sustained by the death of Mr. A. J. Little. Referring to the accounts, the Chairman said: The year's working shows a loss of Tls. 9,787.10, but it must be borne in mind that no mining has been done since last May, the stoppage of work, as explained to you at our last Meeting, being considered expedient until some signs of good faith should be displayed by the Chinese officials, in accordance with Article No. 14 which reads that the Chinese Government shall do all in its power to protect and assist the Company. The accounts call for but little comment on my part, the only noticeable item of increase being the cost of the Railway which has now been debited with the entire cost of freight, landing, etc., at Chungking, which amounts to Tls. 72,174.52. The year under review has been entirely occupied in negotiations with the Chinese officials which at one time reached such a pass that it was considered advisable by your Board to send Mr. Stanhouse and myself to Peking to consult with His Majesty's Minister. I have much pleasure in informing you that we were received with the utmost courtesy by His British Majesty's Minister, Sir John Jordan, with whom the whole matter was carefully gone into, and the thanks of the shareholders are due to the Minister for the very lively interest he has shown in the support of the welfare of the Company. Since this visit last August, negotiations have been proceeding, and are still proceeding slowly, it being very difficult for me to say when we may see an end to them, but you may rest assured that your Directors are leaving no stone unturned to arrive at a satisfactory termination of the present very unpleasant position into which the Company has been forced. The present situation is one of extreme delicacy, and as such I must ask you not to press me with any questions which might prove detrimental at this stage of proceedings, but on the other hand, should any shareholder present be of an enquiring disposition, I shall have much pleasure in giving him such information as I may be able to at the conclusion of the meeting. I also think it my duty to inform you that throughout the negotiations for an amicable settlement of the hostile attitude

assumed by the Chinese authorities, the Company has received, and is receiving the utmost and ablest support from H. B. Consular Officials both at Chengtu and Chungking as well as from the British Minister in Peking, to whom I have already referred. From the published reports of the China Association, you will have noticed that this body has also taken a keen interest in the affairs of this British enterprise; in fact, the London Chairman in his speech referred to the matter as sickening and disheartening.

CHINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. LTD.

At the annual meeting of share and policy holders of the China Mutual Life Insurance Co. Ltd. which took place last week Shanghai. Mr. Alexander McLeod, who presided in the absence of Mr. Robert Macgregor, said:—In submitting the Directors' report for the year ending the 31st March last, I am glad to be able to make the same statement which my predecessors have for so many years past been able to make with never failing regularity, that, as the report will show, a very substantial progress has been made by the Company during the past year in all those points which go to make up financial strength. The new insurances applied for, although only slightly in excess of the total amount for the preceding year, established a record, the total amount being \$9,244,365, the total business in force amounting at the 31st March to over twenty five and a half million taels. This amount would have been considerably large but for the fact that during the past year important changes in the Company's rules and regulations have been made, whereby all policies on which premiums are outstanding for more than a stipulated time are cancelled before the reduction which may be noted in the outstanding premiums for the past year, as compared with the same item for the preceding year, the reduction being about Tls. 60,000, instead of which, in the ordinary course of events, there would have been a substantial increase in this item. It is quite possible, and the practice is often adopted by companies where the progress is not as satisfactory as they would like to represent, to inflate the business in force by retaining as in force many policies on which the premiums have been outstanding for an unreasonable length of time. Your Directors desire that their report of the Company's affairs shall represent as nearly as possible the actual standing of the Company in every respect, and anything tending to this end is a step in the right direction. A substantial gain in the total income of the Company is noted of Tls. 327,480.27, or over ten per cent. This represents a daily average income for the year of over Tls 6,300. As stated in the report, the Company has since the date of the last meeting fulfilled the requirements of the Board of Trade in England and secured a license to transact business in the United Kingdom. Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son still remain the Company's collecting agents for the United Kingdom and Europe. As soon as the Hongkong authorities learned that the Company had made the required deposit in England, they returned to the Company, without any application on our part, the deposit of Tls. 200,000 which we had made with them. The Company have written the Hongkong authorities asking them to retain on behalf of our policyholders this deposit of Tls. 200,000. To this letter no reply has as yet been received. I am glad of this opportunity of making this explanation, in view of a statement recently appearing in the press in connection with a court case in which this Company is interested, to the effect that the Company was misleading the public by advertising a deposit at Hongkong which did not exist. A most gratifying feature in the report is the substantial increase in the reserve and surplus, or insurance fund, which represents the amount held by the Company as reserve liability for the security of policy holders and for distribution of bonuses, the increase in the fund being Tls. 862,820.52.

SHANGHAI ELECTRIC AND ASBESTOS CO.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Electric and Asbestos Co., Ltd., took place on the 25 inst in the Company's office No. 11, a Nanking Road. Mr. W. D. Little presided and the others present were Messrs. J. Frost, A. Hide, W. C.

Murray, Directors; R. W. Mac Cabe, Secretary; O. L. Elbert, Thomas Weir, E. W. Clement, and H. Prowett.

The Chairman said:—

We recommend a dividend of 8 per cent., the same as last year. I regret, however, that you have had to wait for this instead of receiving a portion by way of interim dividend after the usual half yearly balance, as heretofore, but at that time we had a heavy overdraft with our Bankers. You will see from the account that at the end of the year we had worked to a credit; however, at the moment we are again overdrawn. The fact is with a growing business we want a little more working capital.

The company was started in 1903 with a capital of \$100,000; on the 14th July, 1904 an extraordinary general meeting passed resolutions to the effect that, the capital be increased to \$200,000 by the creation of 4,000 new shares but that only 1,000 of such shares be then issued, the remaining 3,000 to be issued and disposed of by the board from time to time and upon such conditions as the Board in their discretion shall deem advisable. Our paid-up capital is now \$125,000 we propose to issue as soon as the time is propitious a further 1,000 shares bringing the capital issued up to \$150,000. The necessity of carrying considerable stock absorbs our funds. I referred to this position last year and trusted that we should be able to reduce the amount so locked up, but unfortunately that does not seem possible. For our stock you will observe is valued at a sum just slightly in excess of our capital. We recommend, placing \$5,000 to reserve, bringing that account up to \$15,000 and that certain amounts be written off various accounts as detailed in the report.

During the six years of the Company's existence to February 28, 1900.

We have paid away in dividends	\$54,549.50
Bonus to Staff	7,000.00
Created a Reserve account of	15,000.00
A special Reserve for bad and doubtful debts of	5,500.00
And written off various accounts	22,329.45
	\$104,378.95

which shows I think a satisfactory working. We had a set back in 1906 owing to the defalcations of the Secretary at that time. For the year ending 31st March, 1907, we had to pass our dividend but wrote off the whole of the last Secretary's defalcations and the expenses connected therewith, amounting to \$7,757.46 and carried forward to the new account \$2,326.98. We are now in new premises in a most suitable location for our business and with, I hope, a good year before us.

There were no questions asked and the first resolution, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Murray, that the report and statement of accounts as printed be adopted, was put to the meeting and carried.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VACANCY.

MR. MURRAY STEWART ELECTED.

Official notice is given in our advertisement columns that Mr. Murray Stewart has been elected as the unofficial member of the Legislative Council, representing the Justices of the Peace, during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. Mr. Stewart was the only candidate proposed for nomination, and therefore the meeting of the Justices of the Peace notified in the *Government Gazette* will not be held.

A very heavy penalty was imposed at the Magistracy on June 3 on a Chinese for having been found in possession of a quantity of opium without a permit. The man, who was arrested at Hok Un Kok, tried to escape by means of a ladder, but without success. He also attempted to throw away a tin of opium. In view of the fact that there were five previous convictions against him, the man was ordered by Mr. Kemp to pay a fine of \$750 or to go to prison for six months. Mr. Hoggarth, chief excise officer, elicited from the defendant that he obtained the raw opium from Sam Chun, a fact which suggests the unwisdom of exporting raw opium from here to Sam Chun.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

BRUTAL MURDER OF A TAOTAI.

Shameen, May 27th.

Taotai Lau Sze Kee was brutally murdered in his house last night.

The deceased, some time ago, was delegated by the Governor of Kwangsi to proceed to the United States for the purpose of inviting the Chinese settled there to subscribe funds for the promotion of manufacturing industries and agriculture in the province of Kwangsi. The Taotai had only recently returned to Canton, having succeeded in getting over two million dollars subscribed for these schemes.

TRAGIC AFFAIR AT CANTON.

Shameen, May 28th.

H. R. H. Appel, I.M. Customs, was found dead in his room about noon to-day. It is presumed that he committed suicide by shooting himself, there being a bullet wound through the heart.

JAPANESE STATESMEN AND THE PRESS.

Tokyo, May 30th.

Last evening the International Press Association held an inaugural dinner, the speakers including Prince Ito, Marquis Katsura, Mr. Chirol (Foreign Editor of "The Times"), Dr. Morrison ("The Times" Peking correspondent) and Mr. Fairbanks, ex vice-President of the United States.

AN INTERESTING SPECULATION.

Tokyo, May 30th.

The presence in Japan of Mr. Valentine Chirol and Dr. Morrison has aroused a good deal of speculation in view of Dr. Morrison's anti-Japanese attitude.

CHINA AND THE FAKUMEN RAILWAY.

Tokyo, June 3rd.

China has formally withdrawn her proposal to submit the dispute with Japan, regarding the Fakumen railway question, to the Hague Tribunal.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS AT SINGAPORE.

Singapore, June 4th.

Severe earthquake shocks were felt here early this morning. Houses rocked and the inhabitants were startled, but no serious damage was done.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON-MACAO RAILWAY.

Peking, May 28th.

The Portuguese minister in Peking has demanded that no parallel line should be built by the Chinese Government and that the Chinese Government should not interfere with the regulation governing the running of trains.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Peking, May 28th.

A great fire broke out to-day in the capital of the province of Shantung. Forty houses were destroyed, and the damage is estimated at several million dollars.

SUNNING RAILWAY PROGRESS.

Sancheung, June 4th.

The opening of a section of the Sunning railway was celebrated to-day in the presence of Taotai Chan, Superintendent of the Commercial Bureau, many officials and merchants, and representatives of the Press.

At ten o'clock this morning a train of many carriages conveyed the invited guests from Sunning City to the railway works, where they stayed until the afternoon.

On the return to the city a feast was held to commemorate the occasion, many congratulatory speeches being made by merchants in attendance.

THE FORMOSAN ABORIGINES.

A Taipei telegram to the *Asahi* says:—A wild tribe of aborigines at Charogis, Taito district, who recently murdered a police officer, has been pressed by the authorities, and some of its members have offered to surrender, while others have fled deeper into the wilds. They seem to have been cut off from their food supply. The Japanese force is making preparations to send the subdued aborigines to lure the tribe out and to seize them in a body.

OPENING OF THE SHANGHAI-HANGCHOW RAILWAY.

The section of the Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo Railway which the Kiangsu Railway Company had undertaken to construct, having been practically completed, the opening ceremonies took place at the end of last month. Starting from the Shanghai station, a special train consisting of ten carriages conveyed the guests over the line, their arrival at the various stations being marked by the firing of crackers and other expressions of celebration. At Sunkiang, the main station of the line, one of the students of the Normal School read a speech of welcome in English which was to the following effect:—If there was one railway in China which could rightly and indisputably be claimed as China's own, it was the Kiangsu Railway. No foreign loans had been necessary for its inception, no foreign engineers were employed in its construction and there were no foreign directors to conduct its affairs. The line had been built by Chinese entirely. Not only was that cause for congratulation, but it was also a significant indication of the growth of national feeling among the Chinese. On behalf of the whole of the prefectural schools of Sunkiang and the members of the faculty belonging thereto, the speaker extended a hearty welcome to the railway company in appreciation of its valuable service in bringing about the completion of the line. Afterwards the pupils, who were of all ages, sang the Chinese National Anthem, clapped hands and saluted in foreign style.

A dinner followed, at which complimentary speeches were delivered.

THE HANKOW TEA MARKET.

The following is taken from the *N.C. Daily News*:—

Since the opening of the market on the 11th instant a fair inquiry has existed, but business cannot be said to be general, as so large a percentage of it is, for the time being, in the hands of two or three important Russian buyers.

Attention has been almost entirely directed to teas from the Keemun and Oanfa districts which afford good quality at comparatively reasonable prices. There is no stock whatever of these descriptions for no sooner are samples put upon the market than they are at once snapped up, and little will come to him who waits. Excellent value has been obtained in the former of these teas at Tls. 50 and 52 per picul, roughly 1s. 2d. per lb., (Tls. 5 cheaper than last year) and in the latter up to Tls. 36 per picul. Although several musters of Ningchows have been shown there is a reluctance to start an opening price, while the Oopacks are looked upon askance.

Shuntams and other low grade Oonahms are in evidence, but fail to elicit any offers of a nature acceptable to would-be sellers. As these and similar teas are not worth more than 4d. to 4½d. per lb. in London, or 9 to 10 cents in New York, and as the various Russian centres of distribution are said to be very heavily stocked, it would not seem reasonable to pay more than their equivalents in Hankow, say Tls. 10 and Tls. 12 per picul. There are also very heavy stocks in America. President Taft has recently stated that the Tariff bill to be placed in his hands by June 2 is "One worthy of signature." If it should provide for the imposition of a tax on tea of 8 or 10 cents per lb. it will certainly be considered worthy of signature by the holders of the abnormal excess of 6,000,000 lb. of Congou shipped to that country from China last year. If tea is to remain upon the "free list" they and all who have speculated will have cause to charge their opinion. Anyhow

it would be unwise to add to those stocks until it is definitely known whether the tax is "to be, or not to be."

Transactions comprise:

Keemuns at Tls. 40 and 62 per picul.	
(extra choice) Tls. 68 up.	
Kiukiang Packs at Tls. 20 and 25 "	
Tongsans " 18 " 21 "	
Yanglowtangs " 20 " 24 "	
Oanfas " 26 " 36 "	

As regards quality the Keemuns and Oanfas are, perhaps, slightly better in cup and infusion than last year, though not quite so attractive in leaf, which is accounted for by the dry, hot weather immediately antecedent to the picking. But after all, though one may be taken in by, one does not drink "appearances;" and once the water is on the leaf appearances do not count for much.

Tea-men admit to making profits of ten per cent on both these descriptions, but when it is remembered that this result is only arrived at by the native after the inclusion of every conceivable and inconceivable charge on first first, it is not hard to understand that there is a substantial reality in native profits quite foreign to foreign calculations. Throughout the length and breadth of Anhui and Hunan these satisfactory results are already known, and judging from the past and "old" custom tea-men will make more tea this year than otherwise had been the case.—H. T. W.

SPURIOUS SOAP IN JAPAN.

A correspondent writes to the *Japan Chronicle*:—

"Needing some soap I sent to a Japanese drug store for a cake of imported soap; it cost fifteen sen, and is declared to be an imported article. Being a curiosity in its way, bearing British, German, French and Japanese names, I beg to submit the article to your notice. Undoubtedly it is a spurious article which would deceive no foreigner of any nationality. But it is different with the Japanese who buy this soap in the belief that they have a genuine imported cake of soap far superior to native manufacture. For example, my servant was surprised when I pointed out to her that the article was, probably, a fraud; she had been buying this 'Paris' soap for some time. She says she likes the smell of it! Permitted no longer to imitate foreign trade marks, certain soap makers are not at a loss to invent 'firms' that have no existence."

Our contemporary adds:—The specimen sent us is certainly of an international character. On the soap itself is stamped the words: "Fragrant Soap Offenbach a. M."; on the inner cover "Sumiyoshi Registered Trade Mark. This Soap Toilet Manufactured by T. Millmann & Company"; and on the outer cover, "Savon Bellarosa. Préparé pour T. Millman, Paris." As our correspondent says, it is not foreigners who are deceived by these things but the Japanese.

SHANGHAI TRADE.

Messrs. Ilbert and Co.'s latest Market Report says:—With the exception that clearances from stock are still being maintained at a very fair rate for the time of year, there is little to report in regard to the market. Szechwan buyers are the best supporters, other dependencies all being very quiet.

An interesting feature of this year's business has been the increase in consumption of yarn as compared with the past few years, the figures being as follows:—

Yarn Deliveries up to 20th May.				
Year.	Indian.	Japanese.	Local.	Total.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
1906	316,463	106,275	31,603	454,341
1907	369,979	109,958	30,420	510,357
1908	312,013	118,635	132,736	563,383
1909	396,997	123,391	123,532	643,920

No doubt an important factor in the expansion of this trade has been that the staple food of the country, namely rice, had ruled cheap during recent months, and also the development of exports of other produce has put money into the country. Naturally the yarn trade is the first to feel an improvement in the country's purchasing power, the effect following later throughout other classes of goods. The silk crop prospects

are said to be excellent, and tea above the average, so that it would appear the near future may be productive of something at least more solid than hope of better times from which the import trade has had for so long a period to derive what sustenance it might.

Messrs. Noel, Murray and Co.'s report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade says:

The market remains in the same quiet state, almost bordering on stagnation, while every one is wondering how, under these circumstances, certain goods come to be re-exported week after week to the extent they do. The Auctions only account for a fractional part of the quantity, so as the majority of Importers disclaim making fresh sales, it can only be assumed that old stocks are being drawn upon to supply requirements to a fair extent. It is true that goods sold to arrive are meeting with prompt clearances so soon as they are discharged from the steamer, but with many items deliveries exceed the imports. The same could have been said of American goods until quite recently fresh arrivals have exceeded the off take. This is destined to be the case with Manchester goods from now on. Stocks are accumulating, and the hopes that were entertained at the beginning of the year of a big reduction on the 30th June will not now be fulfilled. So far the principal items are as follows:

Description.	Deliveries to date	Average off. take first half year of last 4 years.
Grey Shirtings..... pcs.	1,581,000	2,474,000
White "..... "	1,069,000	1,509,000
T-Clothes 32 in..... "	303,000	428,000
English Drills..... "	41,000	60,000
American "..... "	160,000	534,000
English Jeans..... "	193,000	192,000
American "..... "	34,000	93,000
Engl. Sheetings..... "	116,000	161,000
Am. "..... "	582,000	1,687,000
Printed Cotton..... "	284,000	476,000
Turkey Reds..... "	139,000	298,000
Velvets &c..... "	22,000	27,000
Muslins..... "	101,000	195,000
Dyed Cottons..... "	842,000	1,056,000
Cot. Yarn—Ind. pols.	421,000	516,000
do. Jap. "	128,000	175,000
do. Local..... "	131,000	93,000

It must be remembered that the Customs figures for the re-exports are fully two weeks behind hand, so there is a good seven weeks more to complete the half year.

According to native advices there is a little more inquiry from our chief dependencies, but so far it has not made itself manifest except in a rather better turnover from second hands. The complaint is general of an insufficient rainfall which as yet has not caused any harm, the consequences if it holds off much longer however, will be serious.

An enquiry from Newchwang has been met with some fairly cheap re-sales of American goods, but the total quantity of both Drills and Sheetings does not amount to a thousand bales. In other goods fresh sales consist of retail quantities of miscellaneous descriptions, showing a small but genuine consumptive demand. So far the enquiry has not troubled Importers much, they thinking that the demand may become more pronounced after the fifth of the fifth moon, which falls on the 22nd proximo. So much, however, depends on the financial situation of the country. At present it remains in a hopeless muddle and nothing seems to be done to elucidate the terribly complicated mess into which it has been allowed to drift. Suggestions and warnings given to the Government are apparently completely ignored, and all the evils to be expected from the indiscriminate issue of a debased coinage supplemented by the circulation of unsecured paper money, are starting the trade to the face. This is the chief stumbling block one sees ahead, and, as it must be apparent to every one, is there any wonder that there is no confidence, but only anxiety as to the future?

The Filipino leader Aguinaldo, who gave the United States so much trouble in the early days of the American occupation of the Philippines, has been induced to pay his first official visit to the Acting Governor at Baguid, the health resort of the islands.

COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

Hongkong, 7th June:—The prices are advancing, holders being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.65	to	\$4.80
" Round, Good quality ...	4.85	to	4.90
" Long	4.75	to	4.80
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	4.95	to	5.00
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	4.90	to	4.95
" White,	5.05	to	5.10
" Fine Cargo	5.15	to	5.20

OPIUM.

Hongkong, June, 5th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,100/1,150	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,160/1,200	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,210/1,250	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,260/1,320	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,050/1,090	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$900/950	do.
Patna New	\$1,020	per chest.
Patna Old	\$—	do.
Benares New	\$1,035	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

JAPANESE MARKET.

IMPORTS.

Yokohama, May 15th, 1909.—Cotton Yarns.—There is nothing doing, home prices preventing business. Cotton Piece Goods. In Grey Shirting, small business has been passing in regular chop qualities. In Grey Printers some orders have been booked. There has been a little more enquiry and a small forward business done in White Shirtings, but Cotton and Union Italians are quite neglected. Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—This market is quite dull, there being practically no business passing and no enquires for next Spring. Textiles Generally.—Cotton Goods: the rise in home market which is considered to be due more to the operations of speculators in Raw Cotton than to any bonified cause, has a disquieting effect. On the whole the local market has shown a slight but general improvement, and dealers are evincing more interest in trade than they have done for some months past; there is, however, still a lack of confidence. Woollen Goods.—As far as Sping G ods are concerned, deliveries are fairly satisfactory, but there is a dearth of new orders for next season. Raw Cotton.—The market remains lifeless. Owing to bad crop reports, values in producing countries are still showing a decidedly upward tendency. Rice.—The tone of the market, continues to improve, otherwise there is nothing special to report. Metals.—There is a small business passing in Sheets, both plain and galvanized. In Bars a slight rise has taken place in home values, but in view of ample supplies coming forward no business of any importance is being effected. The market generally throughout Japan is in a very depressed condition, and in many instances prices realized hardly cover cost. Window Glass.—Prices continue about the same, but a considerable business has been done for shipment during the summer months. Buyers are now offering reduced prices for forward shipment. Sugar.—A few transactions have been put through in Hongkong refined. Flour.—There are no transactions to report. Stocks are not large, but owing to abnormally high prices demand is greatly restricted. Wheat.—There is an utter absence of business owing to the high prices ruling in producing countries.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 23th May, 1909, state:—The market remains in the same quiet state, almost bordering on stagnation, while every one is wondering how, under these circumstances, certain goods come to be re-exported week after week to the extent they do. The Auctions only account for a fractional part of the quantity, so as the majority of Importers disclaim making fresh sales, it can only be assumed that old stocks are being drawn upon to supply requirements to a fair extent. It is true that goods sold to arrive are meeting with prompt clearances so soon as they are discharged from the steamer, but with many items deliveries have exceeded the imports. The same could have been said of American goods until quite recently

fresh arrivals have exceeded the off-take. This is destined to be the case with Manchester goods from now on, the figures on the fourth page of this issue showing, only so far, any real excess in the imports over re-exports. Stocks are accumulating, and the hopes that were entertained at the beginning of the year of a big reduction on the 30th June will not now be fulfilled. According to native advices there is a little more inquiry from our chief dependencies, but so far it has not made itself manifest except in a rather better turnover from second hands. The complaint is general of an insufficient rain fall, which as yet has not caused any harm, the consequences, if it holds off much longer, however, will be serious. An enquiry from Newchwang has been met with some fairly cheap resales of American goods, but the total quantity of both Drills and Sheetings does not amount to a thousand bales. In other goods fresh sales consist of retail quantities of miscellaneous descriptions, showing a small but genuine consumptive demand. So far the enquiry has not troubled Importers much, they thinking that the demand may become more pronounced after the fifth of the fifth moon, which falls on the 22nd proximo. So much, however, depends on the financial situation of the country. At present it remains in a hopeless muddle and nothing seems to be done to elucidate the terribly complicated mess into which it has been allowed to drift. Suggestions and warnings given to the Government are apparently completely ignored, and all the evils to be expected from the indiscriminate issue of a debased coinage, supplemented by the circulation of unsecured paper money, are staring the trade in the face. This is the chief stumbling block one sees ahead, and as it must be apparent to every one, is there any wonder that there is no confidence, but only anxiety as to the future. The Manchester market keeps its strength, although manufacturers are so insufficiently supplied with orders that it is said they contemplate closing their Mills for ten days at Whitsuntide, the great holiday of the trade. Their foreign customers will not raise their offers and the continued advance in the price of Cotton prevents any concessions being made. The latest Liverpool quotations are 5.87d. for spot Mid. American and 5.78d. for August/September options. Egyptian is a trifle easier at 8½d. From New York the quotation for July comes to-day 11.01 cents, being a decline of ten points since yesterday. The market for Piece goods is unchanged, but we have not heard of any further buying. Native holders are still supplying the demand for Indian Yarn, but, although they are underselling, Importers are managing to keep prices up when they are called upon to sell. This is not often, however, the sales from first hands during the week only amounting to some 300 bales. Japanese cease to attract attention in spite of the advance in Osaka. Local spinners are able to make a few sales at firm prices, while clearances are particularly good. The Cotton Market is quiet but steady, with some anxiety regarding the new crop owing to the dryness of the weather. No special enquiry has reached Importers yet although it has appeared to be on the point of germination for some time past. Sufficient supplies, however, are still in the hands of the dealers to enable them to meet what demand there is, unless something especially tempting is offered to them. To satisfy the demand from Newchwang this week they have been induced to make some concessions in American makes, prices, however, being very inconsistent. The following re-sales of Drills are reported:—Three Fish Tls 4.37½ Dog Tls 4.40, 4 Parrot, Heaven Mandarin and Large and Small Eagles Tls 4.60, Cameron Tls 4.80, Massachusetts and Pacolet Tls 4.85, Pepperell Tls 4.95, and the follow Sheetings:—Buffalo A Tls 4.40, Stag and Dog and Orr. A Tl. 4.60, Piedmont Tls 4.65, Lory A Tls 4.72½, Massachusetts Tls 4.75, Whitney Tls 4.90. In Manchester makes no business is reported, though doubtless some retail transactions have taken place. Very few orders appear to be going through from here. As regards the Auctions, a better feeling has shown itself on the whole. Again the lighter weight Shirtings were a little weaker in most cases, but the heavier makes improved on last week, as did the higher makes of White Shirtings, the ordinary reed goods being weaker. White Irishes were also easier, and common Grey T-Cloths, but the better makes and Jeans all sold at higher prices. Turkey Reds early in the interval had a weaker tendency, but to-day most chops showed an improvement. Fast Black Cotton Italians with few exceptions have realised much firmer prices, and Venetians show slight recoveries in most instances. Woollens have shown a firmer tendency on the whole.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, 31st May, 1909.

Hongkong markets:—

Apricot	\$17 to 17½
Borax	\$17 to 19
Cassia	\$21½
Cloves	\$29 to 31
Camphor	\$82 to 88
Cow Bezoar	\$70 to 120
Fennel Seed	\$3 to 9
Galangal	\$2 to 4
Grapes	\$18
Kismis	\$17½
Glue	\$26
Olibanum	\$3 to 14
Oil Sandalwood	\$250 to 300
" Rosa	\$70 to 90
" Cassia	\$195
Raisins	\$13
Senna Leaves	\$8
Sandalwood	\$34 to 35
Saltpetre	\$10 to 11

EXPORTS:—

SILK

YOKOHAMA, 15th May, 1909.

RAW SILK.—During the fortnight under review, our market fluctuated but little and a moderate business has been done. Reports from the interior indicate that the progress of the mulberry leaves is satisfactory.

WASTE SILK.—Market unchanged. Native mills are steadily buying spring reeled Kibizzo, and arrivals are consequently smaller than is usual at this season of the year. Settlements from April 26th to May 9th, 1,200 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to May 9th, 59,200 piculs. Stock on May 10th is estimated at 5,000 piculs, viz.:—No-hi 900 piculs. Kibizzo 3,200 piculs. Pierced Cocoons Sundries 900 piculs. Total 5,000 piculs. Against last year, 10,700 piculs.

HABUTAI.

YOKOHAMA, 15th May, 1909.

KANAZAWA.—Rates have advanced one to two per cent. since the commencement of the month both in 23 inch and 36 inch. There is no change to chronicle in 27 inch, probably owing to the absence of all enquiries from America. Echizen.—The market has exhibited more strength, prices showing a gradual rise since the 1st of May. There is evidently an improved demand from Europe. Kawamata.—Whilst the price for 36 inch goods has some what declined, other widths have shown an upward tendency.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 7th June:—There is nothing to report in this market, and prices are the same.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 26th May—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 37.50
Do. seconds	" 33.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 7.90
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 7.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 9.70
Animal Tallow	" 10.40
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.25
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 19.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Woungkong	" —
Black Bristles, Riflings	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.80
Sesamum Seed Oil	" 8.50
Wood Oil	" —
Tea Oil	" —

P. & O. steamer *Oceana*, sailed on 29th May For Hamburg—1 case bird feather. For Liverpool—2 cases blackwoodware. For Manchester—375 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar—1 case curios. For Havre—134 cases tea. For Lyons—254 bales raw silk. For Marseilles—201 bales raw silk, 90 bales waste silk, 2 cases silk Embroideries, 13 bales feathers, 13 bales human hair. For London—220 bales waste silk, 494 chta tea, 20 bales raw silk, 92 bales feather, 3 cases silk, 2 pkges procelain, 1 case sundries, 1 case cigar, 1 case lacquerware, 1 case box pump leather, 11 pkges p'effects. For Copenhagen—100 rolls mats.

Per P. & O. steamer *Somali*, sailed on 2nd June. For Antwerp—723 sacks copra. For Manchester—25 bales waste silk. For Marseilles—12 pkges human hair. For Fume—450 bales hemp. For London—110 bales waste silk, 4567 pkges tea, 1200 bales hemp, 20 bales canes, 10 pkges woodware and mats, 13 cases bambooware, 2 pkges p'effects.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 4th June, 1909.—There has been a continued fair demand for stocks during the week and rates have ruled firm, business however continues more or less restricted by the unwillingness of holders to meet the market. Exchange on London closes at 1/9 5/16. T.T. and on Shanghai at 74 1/2.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai. In the early part of the week the London rate came stronger at £91.10, and our market immediately responded with a rise of \$5 to 985, at which rate some few shares changed hands, and later some small sales were made at 99 1/2, while the London rate was reported 10/ lower at £91. The market closes with buyers at 985. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCE.—With the exception of Cantons which have declined to 195 we have nothing to report under this heading, the market having ruled quite inactive.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires continue in demand at 110 but we heard of no sales, and buyers rule the market at time of closing. Hongkongs have been placed at \$345 and close steady at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are still enquired for but holders refuse to part to any extent and purchasers seem disinclined to raise the rate, a few shares have changed hands at 32 and 32 1/2. Indo-Chinas have ruled erratic and but few shares have changed hands locally at quotations. Shells have improved to 61/ on a rise on the London market to 62/ for name shares. Star Ferrys have been placed at 27 for old and 16 for new shares cum the dividend paid on the 3rd inst. China Manilas continue with sellers at 11 and no sales to report. Douglases are neglected at 36.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have weakened without business to 142 1/2, closing with sellers at that rate. Perak Sugars have been sold to the North at 270, 280, 285 and 290, closing firm at last rate. Lugons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Raubs after sales at 9 1/2, 9 1/2 and 9 1/2 close quieter with sellers at 9.30. Charbonnages remain unchanged and without business. Chinese Engineerings have advanced to 18 1/2 with buyers in the North.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have weakened somewhat, and after some further small sales at 68 and 67 1/2 are on offer at the latter rate. Kowloon Wharfs have been the medium of a fair business at 59, and the market close firm with further buyers at that rate. Shanghai Docks remain unchanged, but the latest quotation from the North give the rate as a selling one. Hongkew Wharfs have dropped in the North to 160, but there are buyers at that rate and shares are difficult to get.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands with a continued demand have further improved to 110 after sales at 109, 109 1/2 and 110, the market closing with buyers at the highest rate. West Points have been placed at 46 and close with sellers. Hotels have found buyers of the new issue at 40 while the old is on offer at 71. Humphreys have advanced to 9 1/2, after some small sales at 9 1/2 and at higher rate. Kowloon Lands have changed hands at 30 1/2, and more are wanted at the latter rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewo have declined in the North to 120, but shares are in request at that

rate Internationals have fallen to 85, Laou Kung Mows to 105 and Soy Chees to 390. Hongkongs remain on offer at 8 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos with an unsatisfied demand at 13 1/2 have improved to 13 1/2 with sales at time of closing. China Provs have found buyers at 9 1/2 and 9 1/2. Cements after sales at 8.80 close firmer at 8.90 buyers. Electricies have been placed at 19 and close in further request. Old Peak Trams have found further buyers at 13.20, ex dividend paid on the 29 May. Ropes, Union Water Boats, and Dairy Farms could be placed at quotations but no shares appear to be available. China Lights have changed hands at rates between 6 1/2 and 7 1/2 closing with sellers at the latter rate.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$985, buyers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12/6d.	\$10 1/2, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$13 1/2, sales & buy.
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$7 1/2, sellers
China Provident	\$1	\$9 1/2, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 5	Tls. 120
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$8 1/2
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 85
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
Soychee	Tls. 50	Tls. 390
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$8	\$16 1/2, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$59, sales & buy.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$67 1/2, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$50	\$9, x.d.
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
S'hai & H. Wharf.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 100
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co.	\$10	\$8.20, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$19, sales & buy.
Hongkong Hotel Co. {	\$50	\$71, (old) sales
	\$25	\$40, (new) sel.
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$155, sellers
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$24, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$19 1/2, sellers
China Fire	20	\$110, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$85 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$345, sales & buy.
North China	25	Tls. 104, buyers
Union	\$100	\$845
Yangtze	\$60	\$215
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$110, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9 1/2, sales & buy.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, buyers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sales & buy.
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$625, buyers
Raubs	18/10d.	\$9.40, buyers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd	\$10	\$13.20, sal. & b. x.d.
	\$1	\$1 1/2, sales x.d.
Philippine Co., Ltd....	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$142 1/2, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15, sellers
Robinson Piano Co. ...	\$50	\$50, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$11, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$36
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$32 1/2, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$48 1/2
		25 1/2
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$61 1/2, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26, x.d.
	\$5	\$15, x.d.
South China M. Post...	\$25	\$24, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.....	\$5	\$5 1/2, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co....	\$10	\$12
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	\$7	\$4, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$3 1/2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8.70, sales, x.d.
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$150, buyers
	\$4	\$13, buyers
United Asbestos	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$10 1/2, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

27th May, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$1,010, buyers
National of China...	26	\$50, sales
Russo-Chinese	R187 1/2	Tls. 175
	T125	
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'tn	\$100	\$845, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 104, buyers
Yangtze Assocn. ...	\$80	\$220, s. & buyers
Canton	\$50	\$197 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$345, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$108, buyers
Shipping:—		
Indo - China { pref. } 25		Tls. 55, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. } 21		23.0.0
& Trading { pref. } 210		\$211.0.0, buyers
S'hai 'Tug & { ord. } T50		Tls. 52 1/2, buyers
Lighter ... { pref. } T50		Tls. 53, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 45, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 46, sales
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 85, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$70, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 163
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$58 1/2, buyers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 206, sales
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 250, sales
China Refining	\$100	\$137 1/2, sales
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	21	\$9 1/2, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 17 1/2, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 121, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$103, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$9, buyers
Weihaiwei.....	T20	Tls. 9
China	T50	Tls. 50
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 104, buyers
Cotton:—		
Ewo.....	T50	Tls. 122, sellers
International	T75	Tls. 89
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 106
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 400
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 114, sellers
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 52
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 15
China Flour Mill...	T50	Tls. 36, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 40, sales
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$9, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat.....	Gs. 100	Tls. 1135, sales
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 150, buyers
Dominion Rubbers...	T8	Tls. 9 1/2, sellers
S'hai Waterworks...	220	Tls. 415
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	\$100	\$75, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	T50	Tls. 20, sales
Kalumpang Rubber	T50	Tls. 190, sales
S. R'ber Estates ...	T100	Tls. 285, sellers
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	21	Tls. 15, sal. & sells
Eastern Fibre	210	Tls. 10
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	28.7.6, sales
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$21, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$65
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$19, sales
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co. ...	\$50	\$45
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$26, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$20
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	O. 77 1/2, sel. s. d.
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 5 1/2, sellers
Tientsin Hotel	\$100	Tls. 75, sales
Lane, Crawford & Co.	\$100	\$165
Dunning & Co.	\$50	\$40, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 55, buyers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 64, sales
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sales
Dallas Horse Re- pository	T60	Tls. 25
Printing Co.....	20	Tls. 50

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending May 27th, state:—During the week under review Rubber stocks generally, with the exception of two newer Companies—Tebongs and Dominions—show a considerable rise. This and the fluctuations in Sumatra Tobacco shares have been the principal features in our market during the week. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. The market is steady at \$1,010. Insurance.—Yangtszes. Shares have fallen to \$220, at which rate business has been effected and sellers offer shares. North-Chinas have been in demand at Tls. 104. Shipping.—Indos have been placed at Tls. 52½ for cash and Tls. 53 Tls. 53½ and Tls. 53 for June delivery. At close there are buyers at Tls. 55 for cash and sales have again been effected at Tls. 56 for June. Shanghai Tugs. Ordinaries have been placed at Tls. 53 and 52½. There are buyers of preference shares at Tls. 53. Kochien Tugs. Business is reported at Tls. 46. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Shares have been placed at Tls. 84½ for cash, Tls. 86 for June. Buyers offer Tls. 85 for cash. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A considerable business has been done in shares during the week at rates ruling from Tls. 160 cash and Tls. 163. For June at Tls. 163½ and Tls. 165. The market closes steady with buyers. Sugars.—Perak Sugar continues to advance and business is reported early in the week at Tls. 200, the market rising steadily to Tls. 225, Tls. 230, and to-day at closing sales have been effected at Tls. 250 for cash. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining. Shares are wanted at Tls. 17½. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 119½ and Tls. 120 and are wanted at Tls. 121. Anglo-French Lands at Tls. 104 and are wanted at this rate. Industrial.—Cotton Stocks. The market has been fairly quiet during the week. Ewos have been placed at Tls. 124 for June and at close there are sellers at Tls. 122 for cash and Tls. 123 for June. Laou Kung Mow's have been placed at Tls. 110 June, and Tls. 108 for cash. The market closes nominal at Tls. 106½ for cash. The principal movement in stocks under this heading during the week has been in Rubber shares. Senawags opened with sales at Tls. 225 for July. Later at Tls. 220 and Tls. 225 cash and Tls. 227½ July. On the 23rd cash shares changed hands at Tls. 250. On the 25th at Tls. 28½, and at closing some shares are offered at Tls. 285. Tebongs The market opened at Tls. 13½ Tls. 14 for cash, and continued steady at these rates to the 24th, when they fell to Tls. 12½ and Tls. 13. The market recovered on the 25th and business was done at Tls. 13½ for cash. At close sales are reported for cash at Tls. 15. Sellers offer shares at this rate. Dominions have been quiet, sales are reported at Tls. 9½. At this rate shares are offering. Major Bros. Shares have been placed at Tls. 52½. China Flours are wanted at Tls. 36 for cash and Tls. 37 for June. Pulp and Paper. A sale is reported at Tls. 40 Maatschappij &c. in Langkat. The market has been quieter in this stock during the past week, and rates have remained fairly steady with sales for cash at Tls. 1,145, 1,150 and 1,170 for June. Yesterday shares were placed at Tls. 1,135 for June, and to-day cash shares changed hands at Tls. 1,130. Shanghai Sumatras. We have to report a considerable rise in this stock. Shares were eagerly enquired for both cash and time delivery during the week, and a sale was reported on the 25th at Tls. 142½ for cash. The market opened to-day with buyers at Tls. 150 for cash and Tls. 153 for June resulting in business. At closing sales are reported at Tls. 160 for June, and there is a rumour of a sale at Tls. 160 for cash. Anglo-German Breweries have been placed at \$75 at which rate there are buyers. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. Shares have changed hands at \$11 7s. 6d. for June. Shanghai Electric and Asbestos shares. A transaction took place at \$23, at which rate shares are offering. Shanghai Mutual Telephones have been placed at Tls. 64 and are offering. Debentures.—Municipal 6 per cent, debentures have been placed at Tls. 104½.

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 26th May.—Per Conference Steamers To London and Northern Continental ports 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 82/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G \$1.50 cents per lb gross less than carload Tea G \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 2.50 per ton, weight or measurement.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, June 7th.	
ON LONDON.—	Telegraphic Transfer 1/9 7/8
	Bank Bills, on demand 1/9 7/8
	Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/9 7/8
	Bank Bills at 4 months' sight 1/9 7/8
	Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/9 7/8
	Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/9 7/8
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand 225 1/2
	Credits 4 months' sight 229 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	On demand 183
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand 43 1/2
	Credits, 60 days' sight 44 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer 134 1/2
	Bank, on demand 134 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer 134 1/2
	Bank on demand 134 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight 74 1/2
	Private, 30 days' sight 75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand 87
ON MANILA.—	On demand 88
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand 76 1/2
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand 107 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand 9 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand 8 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand 84
STERLING'S, Bank's Buying Rate.....	\$11.65
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$57.80
BAR SILVER per oz	24 1/2

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.	
May:—	27. Banri Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
	27. Kowloon, German str., from Wuhu.
	27. Shibetoro Maru, Jap. str., from Muke.
	27. Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
	28. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
	28. Hong Wan I, Br. str., from Singapore.
	28. Istria, German str., from Singapore.
	28. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
	28. Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
	28. Oceana, British str., from Shanghai.
	28. Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Sydney.
	28. Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
	28. Tean, British str., from Manila.
	28. Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
	29. Catherine Apar, Br. str., from Calcutta.
	29. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
	29. Frithjof, Nor. str., from Newchwang.
	29. Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.
	29. Nanshan, American str., from Cavite.
	29. Thordis, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
	29. Yatshing, Br. str., from Chinwangtao.
	30. Chihli, British str., from Hongay.
	30. Chinhua, British str., from Shanghai.
	30. Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
	30. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
	30. Fausang, British str., from Saigon.
	30. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
	30. Kiang Ping, Chi. str., from Chinkiang.
	30. Landrat Scheiff, Ger. str., from C'kiang.
	30. Moyune, British str., from Shanghai.
	30. Oldenburg, German str., from Bremen.
	30. Tosa Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
	30. Trigonla, Dutch str., from Foochow.
	31. Ariaki Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
	31. Borneo, Ger. str., from Sandakan.
	31. Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
	31. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
	31. Kitano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
	31. Merapi, Dutch str., from Java.
	31. Peleno, Br. str., from Liverpool.
	31. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
	31. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.

DEPARTURES.	
May:—	28. Aldenham, Br. str., for Australian Ports.
	28. Benmohr, British str., for Nagasaki.
	28. Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
	28. Devawongse, German str., for Swatow.
	28. Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
	28. Rutherglen, British str., for Batavia.
	28. Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
	29. A. Apar, British str., for Shanghai.
	29. Banri Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
	29. Cardiganshire, British str., for Shanghai.
	29. Haldis, British str., for Swatow.
	29. Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
	29. Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
	29. Kiukiang, British str., for Amoy.
	29. Kowloon, German str., for Bangkok.
	29. Oceana, British str., for Europe, &c.
	29. Oanfar, British str., for Tacoma.
	29. Oopach, British str., for Singapore.
	29. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
	30. Anhui, British str., for Shanghai.
	30. Canton, British str., for Chefoo.
	30. C. Jabsen, German str., for Tamsui.
	30. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
	30. Elsezum Bach, Ger. str., for Anganers.
	30. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
	30. Heliopolis, British str., for Durban.
	30. Hongwai I, British str., for Amoy.
	30. Istria, German str., for Shanghai.
	30. Loyal, German str., for Saigon.
	30. Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
	30. Numantia, German str., for Moji.
	30. Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
	30. Triumph, German str., for Fanning Bay.
	30. Victoria, Swedish str., for Haiphong.
	31. Oldenburg, German str., for Kiranhow.
	31. Phranang, German str., for Swatow.
June:—	1. Cheongshing, British str., for Weihaiwei.
	1. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
	1. Heim, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
	1. Hongkong Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
	1. Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
	1. Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
	1. Trigonla, Dutch str., for Palanbang.
	2. Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
	2. Chunsang, British str., for Hongay.
	2. Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
	2. Germania, German str., for Wakamatsu.
	2. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
	2. Kagan, British str., for Iloilo.
	2. Kitano Maru, Jap. str. for Singapore.
	2. Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
	2. Moyune, British str., for Singapore.
	2. M. S. Dollar, British str., for Moji.
	2. Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
	2. Shibetoro Maru, Jap. str., for Takao.
	2. Somali, British str., for Singapore.
	2. Thordis, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
	3. Chinhua, British str., for Shanghai.
	3. Colombo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
	3. Huichow, British str., for Swatow.
	3. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Swatow.
	3. Machew, German str., for Hoihow.
	3. Moyori Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
	3. P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.
	3. P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
	3. Peleno, British str., for Vladivostock.
	3. Suveric, British str., for Moji.
	3. Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
	4. Sia, British str., for Shanghai.
	4. Chihli, British str., for Cebu.
	4. Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
	4. Empire, British str., for Shanghai.
	4. Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
	4. Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
	4. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
	4. Hanoi, Fr. str., for Quang Chow Wan.
	4. Quinta, German str., for Tsingtau.
	4. Simla, British str., for Shanghai.
	4. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

3. Aikaku Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
3. Ascanier, German str., from Wuhu.
3. Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
3. Empire, British str., from Melbourne.
3. Empress of Japan, Br. str., from Vancouver.
3. Fooksang, British str., from Singapore.
3. Knivsberg, German str., from Hoihow.
3. Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
4. Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
4. Fukui Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
4. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
4. Kjeld, Norwegian str., from Dalny.

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1. Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
1. Trigonla, Dutch str., for Palanbang.
2. Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
2. Chunsang, British str., for Hongay.
2. Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
2. Germania, German str., for Wakamatsu.
2. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
2. Kagan, British str., for Iloilo.
2. Kitano Maru, Jap. str. for Singapore.
2. Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
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